

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 30, 2017
To: Grand Canyon Teaching Elders
Grand Canyon Ruling Elder Presbytery Commissioners
From: Stated Clerk, Robert Schulz
Subject: Dismissal Report and Motion for Mountain View Presbyterian Church

This memorandum is being prepared for Commissioners to the October 1, 2016 Presbytery Meeting to present the Rules of Decorum and Dismissal of churches listed for action by the Presbytery at that meeting.

***RULES OF DECORUM AND DEBATE AND PROCEDURES FOR VOTING ON PROPOSED MOTIONS FOR
DISMISSAL
November 4, 2017***

MOTION: to adopt the following Rules of Decorum and Debate and Procedures for Voting on Proposed Motions for Dismissal.

BACKGROUND:

At the Presbytery Meeting held on March 7, 2015, a motion was presented to replace Part 17 of the Manual of Administrative Operations dealing with “Presbytery Policy for Congregations Desiring A Departure From the PC(USA).” The document submitted for consideration at the March meeting had unconstitutional components that did not meet the test of being constitutional as established by recent Permanent Judicial Commission decisions as communicated by the General Assembly office of Constitutional services.

A GRACIOUS DISMISSAL POLICY document was prepared for consideration at the November 7, 2015 Presbytery Meeting, in accord with actions taken at the March 7, 2015 Presbytery Meeting. The Gracious Dismissal Policy was approved by the Presbytery.

It is with this Gracious Dismissal Policy that the churches have come before the Presbytery of Grand Canyon seeking dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

RULES OF DECORUM AND DEBATE for PROPOSED AMENDMENT

(Based upon RONR Page 391)

1. Speeches to any of the motions are limited to 2 minutes by those eligible to vote, alternating pro and con. There will be a microphone and those wishing to speak will line up behind the microphone and will be recognized on an alternating basis between pro and con. Discussion is limited to proposed Dismissal Terms contained in the Administrative Commission Report. The Stated Clerk will maintain a timer.
2. Each person may speak twice on a subject and may not speak a second time until everyone who wishes has spoken.
3. State your name and church affiliation before making comment.
4. Remarks shall be confined to the pending question/issue/amendment and remarks shall not impugn another person or that person’s motives.
5. **All remarks shall be addressed to the moderator.**
6. Persons’ names should not be used, except by way of introduction of yourself when addressing the assembly.
7. **Remarks may not refer adversely to prior acts or discussion.**

8. Extra reports or documents, other than the report of the AC proposal/report, **are not to be read or distributed.**
9. **Persons shall not disturb the assembly, eg clapping, shouting, etc.**
10. Moderator shall monitor and preserve decorum during the debate.

PROCEDURES FOR VOTING (Approved by the Agenda Planning Committee)

1. Voting on motions for Enrolling Corresponding Members, Approval of the Docket, and Approval of the Rules of Decorum will be by simple majority.
2. Voting on the motions for dismissal shall be done one at a time.
3. Voting is by registered commissioners only.
4. Each commissioner will receive a colored card at time of registration. Only individuals holding the colored card will be counted in the voting process.
5. Each church dismissal vote shall have a minimum of 2/3 of the total votes cast for approval.
6. Votes shall be counted by counters selected from the commissioners by the Stated Clerk.