

FLOOR COMMITTEE 10

Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution

Chairman and Amendment Guide - Portrait Print-Friendly Edition

KINGDOM OVER CASTLE | MISSIONAL | LOW CONTROL, HIGH ACCOUNTABILITY

Purpose: Help a delegate address the chairman, huddle with the delegation, create or refine amendment language, and speak to Floor Committee 10 resolutions with truth, pastoral care, due process, protection of the vulnerable, reconciliation, and accountable mercy.

Source frame: Today's Business, Issue 1, Committee 10 proposed resolutions. These are proposed resolutions, not final convention action. Check the latest daily issue before moving anything.

One-sentence test

Does this amendment help the church address sin, conflict, discipline, misconduct, and reconciliation with truth, pastoral care, due process, and accountable mercy, without unnecessary centralized control?

Five capitals delegate questions

Capital	Delegate question
Spiritual	Does it strengthen repentance, absolution, reconciliation, discipline, pastoral care, and churchly order?
Relational	Does it build trust among pastors, congregations, district presidents, victims, accused parties, reconcilers, and members?
Physical	Does it address real processes: hearings, reports, meetings, digital communication, records, conventions, and district offices?
Intellectual	Does it clarify Scripture, Confessions, bylaws, timelines, process maps, evidence standards, and responsibilities?
Financial	Does it reduce unnecessary cost, travel, delay, litigation risk, and process burden while preserving justice?

Christ frame

Ecclesiastical supervision and dispute resolution exist because sin is real, Christ's Church is precious, and the Gospel must not be buried under abuse, confusion, slander, secrecy, or bitterness.

How to address the chairman

Basic floor language	Motion phrases
- Rise or enter the queue according to the standing rules. - When recognized: "Mr. Chairman, Robert Bailey, Texas District, pastoral delegate." - State the action first, then the reason briefly. - Keep remarks about the resolution, not motives of people.	- "Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 10-__ by..." - "I speak in favor of the amendment because..." - "I ask the floor committee whether this concern is already addressed..." - "I request permission to withdraw or revise my amendment."

Delegation huddle script

- What problem are we trying to solve?
- Is the amendment narrow and germane?
- Does it clarify pastoral care, due process, protection, or reconciliation?
- Does it release spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, or financial capital for Gospel witness?
- Does it create accountability without unnecessary control?
- Could this be handled by asking the floor committee a question instead of moving an amendment?

Amendment workflow

Step	What to do	Example phrase
1. Identify	Name the exact resolve or location.	In the second Resolved...
2. Draft	Use clean insert, strike, or substitute language.	Insert after the words...
3. Explain	One pastoral point and one process point.	This protects the vulnerable and clarifies due process...
4. Huddle	Ask whether the delegation agrees it is worth floor time.	Is this necessary, or only nice?
5. Move	Address the chairman and state the amendment.	Mr. Chairman, I move to amend...
6. Speak	Support briefly and fraternally.	This keeps low control with high accountability...

Committee 10 dashboard

Priority	Resolution	Why it matters
1	10-03	Sexual misconduct, survivor care, congregational care, prevention, and safeguards.
2	10-02	Dispute resolution and expulsion processes need clarity, timeliness, cost control, and due process.
3	10-04	Digital communication affects trust, public witness, accusations, and supervision.
4	10-01	Matthew 18 guidance must distinguish private sin, public sin, misconduct, and accountability.
5	10-07	Declined overtures may contain concerns worth routing into proper study.
6	10-06	Candidate reporting deadline is small but improved by clear communication.
7	10-05	District president installation is likely fine, but transition communication helps.

Master amendment paragraph

Adapt this where a resolution creates a report, task force, statement, process review, or bylaw change but lacks clear implementation guidance:

Resolved, That implementation of this resolution preserve clear Lutheran doctrine, due process, pastoral care, proper confidentiality, protection of the vulnerable, and timely communication; and be it further Resolved, That any report or recommendation include practical guidance for congregations, pastors, district presidents, schools, institutions, and affected persons, including timelines, responsibilities, costs, safeguards, five capitals stewarded, and lessons learned.

Use when

- A task force needs broader input, plain-language maps, timelines, or cost clarity.
- A statement needs clear categories so truth and mercy do not get blurred.
- A bylaw change needs communication to affected people.
- A declined overture contains concerns worth routing to better process.
- A resolution protects doctrine or order but needs pastoral usability.

When not to amend

- Do not amend for rhetorical polish only.
- Do not use process to avoid repentance, care, or accountability.
- Do not demand disclosure that violates privacy, pastoral confidentiality, legal obligations, or victim safety.
- Do not create a new centralized control point if district, pastoral, or congregational responsibility is already proper.
- Ask a question instead if the committee can clarify the issue on the floor.

Resolution-by-resolution amendment cards

Each card gives a narrow amendment idea, why it helps, a five-capitals read, a microphone phrase, one question instead of amendment, and one huddle question.

10-01 - CTCR Opinion on Matthew 18:15-20

Priority: High | Castle risk: Matthew 18 can be ignored, weaponized, or misused to silence proper public accountability.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That the CTCR report include practical pastoral guidance distinguishing private sin, public sin, public false teaching, personal grievance, ecclesiastical offense, and misconduct requiring immediate supervisory or civil reporting; and be it further Resolved, That such guidance include examples for pastors, congregations, district presidents, schools, and members, so Matthew 18 is neither ignored nor misused to silence proper public accountability.

Why this helps

Matthew 18 is precious pastoral instruction from Jesus. It is not duct tape for victims, a loophole for public sin, or a cudgel for online mobs. This amendment asks for clear categories and usable examples.

What not to overdo

Do not turn Matthew 18 into a gag order. Do not flatten every dispute into the same process. Distinguish private reconciliation from public accountability and mandatory reporting.

Five capitals examples

Capital	How it applies
Spiritual	Repentance, forgiveness, public rebuke of public sin, private reconciliation
Relational	Reduces suspicion among pastors, members, DPs, complainants, and accused parties
Physical	Applies to meetings, hearings, reports, and public statements
Intellectual	Clarifies sin, offense, grievance, false teaching, and misconduct categories
Financial	Reduces costly process confusion and repeated disputes

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 10-01 by asking the CTCR report to include practical guidance distinguishing private sin, public sin, public false teaching, grievance, offense, and misconduct requiring supervisory or civil reporting.

Question instead of amendment: Will the CTCR report include practical examples distinguishing private sin, public sin, public false teaching, misconduct, and proper reporting?

Delegation huddle question: Does this help Matthew 18 be used faithfully without silencing public accountability?

10-02 - Task Force on Bylaws 1.10 and 2.14

Priority: Highest | **Castle risk:** Dispute resolution can become lengthy, costly, and confusing, a castle hallway where everyone ages visibly.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That the task force seek input from parish pastors, congregational lay leaders, circuit visitors, trained reconcilers, former dispute-resolution participants where appropriate, legal counsel, and district presidents; and be it further Resolved, That its report include a plain-language process map, expected timelines, cost considerations, electronic-meeting options, confidentiality boundaries, appeal or review points, and pastoral safeguards for all parties.

Why this helps

This keeps dispute resolution churchly, timely, understandable, and less costly while preserving due process. The process should be a road toward reconciliation and faithful order, not a maze with hymnals.

What not to overdo

Do not design the process only from the top. Do not speed up the process by weakening due process, confidentiality, or pastoral care.

Five capitals examples

Capital	How it applies
Spiritual	Reconciliation, repentance, unity in doctrine and judgment
Relational	Trust among parties, pastors, DPs, reconcilers, and congregations
Physical	Meetings, electronic options, hearings, reports, and records
Intellectual	Plain-language process maps, timelines, and bylaw clarity
Financial	Reduced travel, legal costs, delays, and process burden

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 10-02 by adding broader consultation and requiring a plain-language process map, timelines, costs, electronic options, confidentiality boundaries, and pastoral safeguards.

Question instead of amendment: Will the task force produce a plain-language process map with timelines, costs, electronic-meeting options, and confidentiality boundaries?

Delegation huddle question: Does this make dispute resolution more churchly, timely, understandable, and less costly?

10-03 - Sexual Misconduct by Rostered Workers and Spiritual Care

Priority: Highest | **Castle risk:** Institutional process can appear cleaner than the actual care of victims, families, congregations, and due process.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That the task force recommendations include trauma-informed pastoral care, mandatory-reporting and civil-authority considerations, confidentiality boundaries, care for victims and families, care for congregations and institutions, prevention training, communication guidance for ecclesiastical supervisors, and safeguards when an accused worker resigns from the roster before discipline is completed; and be it further Resolved, That the task force provide practical resources usable by congregations, schools, institutions, district presidents, and church workers before the 2029 convention wherever possible.

Why this helps

Sexual misconduct is a spiritual wound, trust wound, vocational wound, congregational wound, and often a legal wound. This amendment centers care for the harmed while preserving due process and proper supervision.

What not to overdo

Do not let confidentiality become secrecy. Do not let public anger replace due process. Do not treat victim care as an appendix to institutional protection.

Five capitals examples

Capital	How it applies
Spiritual	Pastoral care, repentance, protection, prayer, and absolution where appropriate
Relational	Care for victims, families, congregations, schools, DPs, and workers
Physical	Safe meeting spaces, records, reporting channels, and training settings
Intellectual	Trauma-informed guidance, civil reporting clarity, prevention training
Financial	Funding for experts, training, counseling support, and legal review

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 10-03 by adding trauma-informed pastoral care, mandatory-reporting clarity, prevention training, communication guidance, and safeguards when an accused worker resigns before discipline is completed.

Question instead of amendment: How will the task force ensure trauma-informed care, victim testimony, mandatory-reporting clarity, and safeguards when an accused worker resigns?

Delegation huddle question: Does this protect victims and congregations while preserving due process and proper pastoral care?

10-04 - Unity, Peace, and Digital Communication

Priority: High | **Castle risk:** Digital slander must be condemned, but legitimate public critique, proper reporting, and whistleblower concerns must not be muzzled.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That the CTCR statement distinguish legitimate public theological critique, proper reporting of misconduct, whistleblower concerns, anonymous or pseudonymous attacks, unverified accusations, satire, gossip, and slander; and be it further Resolved, That the statement include practical guidance for pastors, congregations, schools, district presidents, and members on when to speak publicly, when to go privately, when to contact ecclesiastical supervisors, and when civil authorities must be involved.

Why this helps

This protects the Eighth Commandment without building a gag wall. No gossip, no gag order, no anonymous firehose, no castle wall.

What not to overdo

Do not make every public critique sinful. Do not bless anonymous attacks. Do not confuse reporting misconduct with slander.

Five capitals examples

Capital	How it applies
Spiritual	Repentance, truth, Eighth Commandment, unity, and forgiveness
Relational	Rebuilds trust in congregations, districts, and online spaces
Physical	Applies to blogs, podcasts, social media, email, and district processes
Intellectual	Defines categories of speech and proper channels
Financial	Reduces conflict costs, reputational harm, and legal exposure

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 10-04 by asking the CTCR statement to distinguish legitimate public critique, proper reporting, whistleblower concerns, anonymous attacks, unverified accusations, gossip, and slander.

Question instead of amendment: Will the CTCR statement distinguish legitimate public critique and proper reporting from gossip, slander, and anonymous attacks?

Delegation huddle question: Does this condemn digital slander without silencing legitimate accountability?

10-05 - Installation of District Presidents

Priority: Low to Medium | **Castle risk:** Installation, assumption of office, and transition dates can be confusing for congregations and district matters.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That districts be encouraged to communicate clearly to congregations the installation date, assumption-of-office date, transition plan, and contact process for district matters during any interim period.

Why this helps

This is a small but useful clarity amendment. Low control, high accountability here simply means: tell congregations who is responsible and when.

What not to overdo

Do not overbuild a major process around a simple transition communication issue.

Five capitals examples

Capital	How it applies
Spiritual	Orderly installation and prayer for district leadership
Relational	Trust between district leadership and congregations
Physical	District convention, office transition, and communication systems
Intellectual	Clear dates, responsibilities, and transition procedures
Financial	Avoids administrative confusion and duplicated work

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 10-05 by encouraging districts to communicate the installation date, assumption-of-office date, transition plan, and contact process during any interim period.

Question instead of amendment: How will districts communicate installation dates, assumption-of-office dates, and transition responsibilities?

Delegation huddle question: Does this help congregations know who is responsible during the transition?

10-06 - Candidate Annual Report Deadline

Priority: Low to Medium | **Castle risk:** A deadline change can serve district efficiency, but candidates may be lost in the paperwork bushes without reminders.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That districts provide candidates with plain-language annual reminders at least 60 days before the deadline, including the required information, consequence of non-reporting, contact person, and any available electronic submission process.

Why this helps

This helps districts process reports efficiently while caring for candidates. A worker should not lose status because the deadline vanished into the convention-season email swamp.

What not to overdo

Do not turn a simple annual report into a new bureaucracy. Keep the reminder plain, timely, and easy to use.

Five capitals examples

Capital	How it applies
Spiritual	Helps eligible workers remain connected to service possibilities
Relational	Builds trust between districts and candidates
Physical	Annual report systems, reminders, and electronic forms
Intellectual	Clear instructions, deadlines, consequences, and criteria
Financial	Avoids administrative rework and process confusion

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 10-06 by asking districts to provide candidates plain-language reminders at least 60 days before the annual report deadline, including requirements, consequences, contacts, and submission options.

Question instead of amendment: Will candidates receive clear reminders before the annual reporting deadline?

Delegation huddle question: Does this improve efficiency without accidentally losing candidates in the paperwork bushes?

10-07 - Respectfully Decline Overtures

Priority: Medium | **Castle risk:** Declining flawed overtures can accidentally bury real concerns about appeals, complaint notification, restriction appeals, and call-process communication.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That while declining these overtures, the Synod encourage continued study and clarification through the 10-02 task force and appropriate boards, commissions, and districts regarding appeals, complaint notification, participation expectations, public-record boundaries, hearing delays, restriction appeals, and pastoral communication during calls and installations.

Why this helps

Sometimes the overture is the wrong vehicle, but the concern still needs a road. This declines the bad vehicles while keeping worthy cargo in the proper lane.

What not to overdo

Do not relitigate every declined overture on the floor. Preserve the concerns only if they genuinely need a better process.

Five capitals examples

Capital	How it applies
Spiritual	Churchly discipline, reconciliation, repentance, and order
Relational	Trust among complainants, accused persons, DPs, and congregations
Physical	Appeals, hearings, records, and call documents
Intellectual	Process clarity and public/private boundaries
Financial	Avoids expensive duplicate processes or litigation risk

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 10-07 by encouraging continued study of appeals, complaint notification, participation expectations, public-record boundaries, hearing delays, restriction appeals, and call-process communication through the 10-02 task force and proper channels.

Question instead of amendment: Which declined concerns will be picked up by the 10-02 task force or other proper channels?

Delegation huddle question: Does this decline flawed overtures while preserving legitimate concerns for better process?

Best question instead of amendment list

Resolution	Question
10-01	Will the CTCR report include practical examples distinguishing private sin, public sin, public false teaching, misconduct, and proper reporting?
10-02	Will the task force produce a plain-language process map with timelines, costs, electronic-meeting options, and confidentiality boundaries?
10-03	How will the task force ensure trauma-informed care, victim testimony, mandatory-reporting clarity, and safeguards when an accused worker resigns?
10-04	Will the CTCR statement distinguish legitimate public critique and proper reporting from gossip, slander, and anonymous attacks?
10-05	How will districts communicate installation dates, assumption-of-office dates, and transition responsibilities?
10-06	Will candidates receive clear reminders before the annual reporting deadline?
10-07	Which declined concerns will be picked up by the 10-02 task force or other proper channels?

One-page delegate cheat sheet

Need	Phrase
To move an amendment	Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 10-__ by adding the following resolved...
To speak in favor	I speak in favor because this keeps the resolution mission-focused while adding accountability without unnecessary control.
To ask before amending	I ask the floor committee whether this concern is already addressed in existing policy or planned implementation.
To avoid overreach	This amendment does not mandate a particular operational outcome. It asks for clarity, reporting, and responsible pastoral governance.
To frame five capitals	This releases spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, and financial capital for congregations, workers, districts, and Gospel mission.
To withdraw if answered	Mr. Chairman, in light of the committee's explanation, I request permission to withdraw my amendment.

Closing Gospel frame

Church order should protect the wounded, call sinners to repentance, preserve due process, restore where possible, and keep the Gospel clear for the flock and the world. Christ is risen indeed, and shepherding structures should serve His mercy, not castle maintenance.