

FLOOR COMMITTEE 8

Finance

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 8 resolutions with transparent stewardship, local usefulness, and accountable mission.

Source frame: Today's Business, Issue 1, Committee 8 proposed resolutions. These are proposed resolutions, not final convention action. Check the latest daily issue before moving anything.

One-sentence test

Does this amendment release resources for Gospel mission, strengthen trust through clear accountability, and avoid unnecessary centralized control?

Five capitals delegate questions

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Does it support Word, Sacrament, pastoral formation, catechesis, confession, and Gospel witness?
Relational	Does it build trust among Synod, congregations, workers, seminaries, CPH, CPS, donors, and members?
Physical	Does it steward real systems: benefit plans, seminaries, publishing platforms, shipping, legal records, facilities?
Intellectual	Does it provide clear reports, policies, theological resources, data, legal clarity, and usable guidance?
Financial	Does it clarify costs, risks, funding, pricing, settlements, liabilities, sustainability, and stewardship?

Christ frame

Finance is never just finance in the Church. Money supports pastors who preach Christ. Publishing puts the Catechism into homes. Benefits care for workers. Seminary funding forms shepherds. Legal transparency protects trust.

How to address the chairman

Basic floor language - Rise or enter the queue according to the standing rules. - When recognized: "Mr. Chairman, Robert Bailey, Texas District, pastor of the _____, past _____ of the amendment because..." - State the action first, then the reason briefly. - Keep remarks about the resolution, not motives of people.	Motion phrases - "Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 8-__ by..." - "I ask the floor committee whether this concern is already addressed..." - "I request permission to withdraw or revise my amendment."
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Delegation huddle script

- What problem are we trying to solve?
- Is the amendment narrow and germane?
- Does it clarify stewardship, reporting, or mission access?
- 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 stewardship point and one mission point.	"This protects trust and helps congregations..."
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 8 Dashboard

Priority	Resolution	Why it matters
Highest	8-01	Legal settlements and judgments affect trust, accountability, confidentiality, and stewardship.
Highest	8-02	CPS governance affects worker benefits, insurance, congregational budgets, and risk.
High	8-03	Seminary funding supports pastoral formation and needs defined reporting.
High	8-07	Shipping is a practical access barrier for small and remote ministries.
High	8-04	Access to the Confessions is a major catechetical and mission opportunity.
Medium	8-06	CPH mission and distribution should become measurable access.
Medium/Low	8-05	Translation-choice clarity is helpful, but likely less urgent than governance or access.

Master amendment paragraph

Resolved, That implementation of this resolution serve congregations, workers, students, donors, and Gospel mission; preserve appropriate confidentiality and legal obligations; strengthen transparency and trust; and provide a brief report before the 2029 convention describing resources stewarded, costs considered, risks addressed, five capitals released, and lessons learned.

Use when:

- A resolution says study, explore, encourage, or commend but does not say how anyone will report back.
- Technical matters affect congregations, schools, workers, donors, or participating employers.
- Resources may not reach small congregations, rural ministries, mission starts, seminarians, ethnic ministries, or international partners.
- A financial, governance, or distribution study needs defined scope, real options, real costs, and real risks.

When not to amend

- Do not amend for rhetorical polish only.
- Do not create a mandate without funding or an implementation path.
- Do not demand disclosure that violates legal privilege, settlement terms, donor privacy, personnel confidentiality, or fiduciary responsibility.
- Do not micromanage CPH, CPS, seminaries, or the Board of Directors without adding meaningful accountability.

8-01 - Legal Judgments and Settlements

Priority: Highest | **Castle risk:** Confidentiality can become a fog bank if delegates receive no meaningful post-settlement account.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That when legal judgments or settlements are concluded, the Synod Board of Directors provide, where legally permissible, a summary report to the Synod that identifies the general nature of the matter, the financial impact or range of impact, the source of payment, any insurance involvement, governance lessons learned, and any policy changes adopted, while preserving legal privilege, donor confidentiality, personnel privacy, pastoral confidentiality, and settlement obligations.

Why this helps

This does not demand privileged details or gossip. It asks for enough accountability to rebuild trust: what happened generally, what it cost, who paid, whether insurance was involved, what was learned, and what changed.

What not to overdo

Do not demand names, personnel details, attorney-client communications, donor information, or details barred by settlement terms.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Truthfulness, repentance where needed, and integrity in stewardship
Relational	Trust between Synod leaders, congregations, donors, and members
Physical	Legal records, board records, insurance records, document retention
Intellectual	Lessons learned, policy changes, governance improvement
Financial	Settlement costs, insurance coverage, payment source, liability exposure

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 8-01 by adding post-settlement reporting where legally permissible, including financial impact, payment source, insurance involvement, lessons learned, and policy changes while preserving proper confidentiality.

Question instead of amendment: What information can be shared with the Synod after legal settlements are concluded without violating legal privilege, privacy, or settlement obligations?

Delegation huddle question: Does this give meaningful accountability without demanding legally improper disclosure?

8-02 - Concordia Plans and Concordia Plan Services

Priority: Highest | **Castle risk:** CPS can receive expanded responsibilities without ordinary congregations, workers, schools, and employers understanding risk and governance.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That before any additional major area of responsibility is assigned to Concordia Plan Services or related entities, the Synod Board of Directors provide clear notice describing the proposed responsibility, purpose, expected benefit to congregations and workers, governance structure, financial risk, liability exposure, required expertise, and reporting expectations; and be it further Resolved, That such notice be written in plain language for congregations, schools, workers, and participating employers.

Why this helps

This preserves flexibility for worker care and benefit governance while requiring clear communication before major new responsibilities are added. It asks what is changing, why, who benefits, who is responsible, what risks are assumed, and how reporting will work.

What not to overdo

Do not require the convention to approve every operational decision. That would turn benefits governance into a traffic jam with hymnals.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Care for workers who serve Christ and His Church
Relational	Trust among CPS, workers, congregations, schools, employers, and Synod
Physical	Benefit systems, insurance systems, risk pools, administrative structures
Intellectual	Governance clarity, legal clarity, risk explanation
Financial	Health coverage, retirement, insurance, reserves, premiums, liability

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 8-02 by requiring plain-language notice before major new responsibilities are assigned to Concordia Plan Services.

Question instead of amendment: How will congregations and workers be notified when CPS assumes major new responsibilities or forms related entities?

Delegation huddle question: Does this protect worker care while making governance and risk understandable to congregations?

8-03 - Fund Our Synod's Seminaries

Priority: High | **Castle risk:** A standardized report may be named but not defined, leaving congregations with numbers but not clarity.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That the joint standardized annual report include tuition revenue, individual and household gifts, congregational gifts, district support, corporate Synod support, restricted and unrestricted gifts, student aid, endowment support, major expense categories, student debt indicators where available, residential formation costs, alternative-route formation costs where applicable, and how funding strengthens pastoral formation for congregations and mission fields; and be it further Resolved, That the report be made accessible to congregations, donors, students, and delegates in a clear public format.

Why this helps

This turns standard reporting into usable reporting. It helps congregations and donors understand how pastoral formation is funded, what students carry, what costs are rising, and how gifts serve congregations and mission fields.

What not to overdo

Do not create a 97-page accounting labyrinth. Delegates need clarity, not a treasure hunt with footnotes.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Formation for preaching, Sacraments, catechesis, and pastoral care
Relational	Trust among seminaries, donors, congregations, students, districts
Physical	Seminary campuses, housing, classrooms, libraries, chapel life
Intellectual	Theological formation, languages, Confessions, pastoral practice
Financial	Tuition, scholarships, endowments, gifts, student debt, Synod support

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 8-03 by specifying what the standardized annual seminary funding report should include and requiring it be accessible to congregations, donors, students, and delegates.

Question instead of amendment: What categories will be included in the standardized annual seminary funding report?

Delegation huddle question: Will this report help congregations understand how pastoral formation is funded and how gifts are used?

8-04 - Expand Access to the Lutheran Confessions

Priority: High | **Castle risk:** Confessional resources may remain hard to access, or annotations may be confused with the confessional text.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That any online expansion clearly distinguish the text of the Lutheran Confessions from explanatory notes and annotations; and be it further Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations include in the feasibility report attention to cost, copyright and licensing, digital accessibility, mobile usability, multilingual expansion, searchability, congregational teaching use, classroom use, family catechesis, and safeguards for doctrinal clarity.

Why this helps

This releases spiritual and intellectual capital for catechesis while guarding doctrinal clarity. It helps pastors, elders, parents, teachers, youth, seminarians, new Lutherans, and curious neighbors access the Confessions.

What not to overdo

Do not require everything to be free without studying copyright, production, maintenance, and sustainability.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Confessional teaching, unity in the Gospel, catechesis
Relational	Shared study among pastors, elders, parents, teachers, students
Physical	Website, mobile access, classroom use, printed/digital bridge
Intellectual	Searchable text, notes, annotations, translations
Financial	Cost, licensing, digital maintenance, free or low-cost access

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 8-04 by asking the feasibility report to address distinction between text and notes, cost, licensing, accessibility, mobile use, multilingual expansion, searchability, congregational use, and doctrinal safeguards.

Question instead of amendment: Will the feasibility study distinguish the Confessions from annotations and include cost, licensing, mobile usability, and multilingual options?

Delegation huddle question: Does this make the Confessions more accessible without confusing commentary with confession?

8-05 - CPH Bible Translations

Priority: Medium to low | **Castle risk:** Translation choices may be unexplained, or the convention may try to micromanage publishing decisions.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be encouraged to provide clear, accessible explanations for pastors, teachers, schools, and congregations regarding translation choices in major worship, catechetical, educational, and devotional resources, including how such choices serve accuracy, clarity, memorization, liturgical consistency, intergenerational teaching, and mission.

Why this helps

This does not micromanage CPH. It helps the church understand why translation choices are made and how they serve worship, catechesis, schools, memory work, and family devotion.

What not to overdo

Do not create a convention process for approving every translation use. That would be like making every potluck casserole pass doctrinal review: admirable instinct, unbearable execution.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Scripture in worship, catechesis, preaching, devotion
Relational	Trust among CPH, pastors, teachers, parents, congregations
Physical	Bibles, hymnals, curriculum, school materials, devotion books
Intellectual	Translation philosophy, clarity, memorization, doctrine
Financial	Avoid unnecessary curriculum churn and duplicate purchases

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 8-05 by encouraging CPH to provide accessible explanations of translation choices in major worship, catechetical, educational, and devotional resources.

Question instead of amendment: Does CPH already provide public guidance explaining translation choices in major worship, catechetical, educational, and devotional resources?

Delegation huddle question: Would this help congregations understand translation choices without micromanaging the publisher?

8-06 - CPH Mission and Distribution

Priority: Medium | **Castle risk:** Commendation may become polite applause without measurable access for smaller and mission-field contexts.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be encouraged to continue expanding practical access to faithful Lutheran resources for small congregations, mission starts, schools, campus ministries, ethnic and multilingual ministries, rural congregations, prison ministries, military chaplaincy, disaster-response ministries, and international mission partners; and be it further Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House provide a brief report before the 2029 convention describing distribution improvements, mission-focused resource access, digital access, multilingual availability, licensing improvements, discount-program impact, and lessons learned.

Why this helps

This turns commendation into measurable mission access. It asks whether resources are reaching the edges of the Synod, not only the easy markets.

What not to overdo

Do not require CPH to provide resources below cost without a funding model. Mission pricing still needs to be sustainable.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Gospel-centered books, catechisms, worship, Bible studies, devotionals
Relational	Listening to pastors, teachers, missionaries, small churches
Physical	Print distribution, digital libraries, resource delivery
Intellectual	Faithful Lutheran teaching and translation
Financial	Discount programs, licensing, affordability, sustainability

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 8-06 by encouraging CPH to expand mission-focused access and report before 2029 on distribution improvements, digital access, multilingual availability, licensing, discounts, and lessons learned.

Question instead of amendment: Will CPH report on distribution improvements, licensing policies, digital access, multilingual resources, and discount-program impact?

Delegation huddle question: Does this help CPH's mission priority become measurable access for real congregations and mission fields?

8-07 - CPH Shipping Charges

Priority: Medium to high | **Castle risk:** Shipping may be dismissed as minor even when it blocks small congregations and individuals from accessing faithful resources.

Amendment idea

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be encouraged to study and report before the 2029 convention on shipping and distribution options that reduce barriers for congregations, schools, mission starts, rostered and commissioned workers, seminarians, rural and remote ministries, ethnic and multilingual ministries, prison ministries, military chaplaincy, and individuals, including possible free-shipping thresholds, digital alternatives, bulk-order partnerships, district or circuit pooling, subscription models, mission-resource discounts, and seasonal ordering strategies; and be it further Resolved, That such study include the financial impact on CPH's sustainability, pricing, customer access, resource distribution, and mission use.

Why this helps

This does not command a shipping policy. It asks CPH to study options and tradeoffs. CPH keeps operational judgment, the Synod gets visibility, congregations get options, and mission access is centered.

What not to overdo

Do not mandate free shipping across the board. Shipping is never free; it may simply hide in higher prices elsewhere.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Easier access to catechetical, devotional, and worship resources
Relational	CPH listening to small churches, schools, workers, rural ministries
Physical	Shipping systems, warehouses, digital delivery, district pooling
Intellectual	Distribution analysis, customer access data, usage patterns
Financial	Shipping thresholds, discounts, pricing, sustainability

Microphone phrase: I move to amend Resolution 8-07 by asking CPH to study shipping and distribution options that reduce barriers while reporting financial impact, sustainability, pricing, access, and mission use before 2029.

Question instead of amendment: Will CPH study free-shipping thresholds, district or circuit pooling, digital alternatives, and mission discounts with financial tradeoffs included?

Delegation huddle question: Does this reduce barriers without forcing CPH into a financially unsustainable policy?

Best question instead of amendment list

Resolution	Question
8-01	What information can be shared with the Synod after legal settlements are concluded without violating legal privilege, privacy, or settlement obligations?
8-02	How will congregations and workers be notified when CPS assumes major new responsibilities or forms related entities?
8-03	What categories will be included in the standardized annual seminary funding report?
8-04	Will the feasibility study distinguish the Confessions from annotations and include cost, licensing, mobile usability, and multilingual options?
8-05	Does CPH already provide public guidance explaining translation choices in major worship, catechetical, educational, and devotional resources?
8-06	Will CPH report on distribution improvements, licensing policies, digital access, multilingual resources, and discount-program impact?
8-07	Will CPH study free-shipping thresholds, district or circuit pooling, digital alternatives, and mission discounts with financial tradeoffs included?

One-page delegate cheat sheet

To move an amendment: "Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 8-__ 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 stewardship."

To frame the five capitals: "This releases spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, and financial capital for congregations, workers, students, 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

Finance is not about guarding the vault. The Lord gives resources so Christ may be preached, workers may be cared for, pastors may be formed, families may be catechized, congregations may be strengthened, and sinners may hear the Gospel.

Christ is risen indeed, and stewardship should serve the harvest, not polish the vault.