

THE SAFE OPENING

Mr. Chairman, [Name], [District], voting delegate. I rise to [purpose].

Use this every time. Then speak through the chair, not across the room.

At the microphone

1. Register At the kiosk, choose pro, con, motion, info, inquiry, or point of order.

2. Wait Do not start until the chair recognizes you.

3. Identify State name, district or entity, and delegate status.

4. State purpose Say the action or question in one clean sentence.

5. Provide wording For amendments or substitutes, give written wording to the Secretary.

6. Be brief Two minutes disappears faster than coffee at a floor committee meeting.

Choose the right purpose

Debate I rise to speak in favor / against...

Motion I move that...

Amend I move to amend by striking / inserting...

Refer I move to refer this matter to...

Info Request for information: Could the committee clarify...?

Inquiry Parliamentary inquiry: What motion is proper...?

Order Point of order. I believe the rule is not being followed.

Ready-to-use floor phrases

Fill in the blanks before you walk to the mic.

Purpose	Phrase
Speak in favor	Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of Resolution ___ because...
Speak against	Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak against Resolution ___. My concern is...
Amend	Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution ___ by striking '___' and inserting '___'.
Add a safeguard	I move to amend by adding: 'Nothing in this resolution shall be interpreted to bind consciences beyond Scripture, the Confessions, and the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws.'
Refer	Mr. Chairman, I move to refer Resolution ___ to Floor Committee ___ for further consideration and report.
Substitute	Mr. Chairman, I move the substitute resolution now provided to the Secretary.
Remove omnibus	I move to remove Overture ___ from Omnibus ___ and refer it to Floor Committee ___ for action.
Request information	Request for information: Would the floor committee clarify whether this language requires action or merely encourages action?
Parliamentary inquiry	Parliamentary inquiry: What motion is proper if I want this sent back to committee?
Point of order	Point of order. I believe the pending amendment is not germane to the resolution.
Close debate	Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question.

TWO-MINUTE DEBATE FRAME

Position: I support / oppose. Concern: The issue is... Anchor: Scripture, Confession, Handbook, report, or practical effect. Ask: Please vote yes / no / yes on referral.

BETTER WAYS TO SAY HARD THINGS

The concern is real, but the wording is too broad. This preserves the doctrine while removing overreach. Let us not bind consciences where Christ has left freedom. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Delegate posture: Be clear. Be germane. Be charitable. Be prepared. Be brief. Christ is risen indeed.