

## 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
<b>Speak in favor</b>	Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of Resolution ___ because...
<b>Speak against</b>	Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak against Resolution ___. My concern is...
<b>Amend</b>	Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution ___ by striking '___' and inserting '___'.
<b>Add a safeguard</b>	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.'
<b>Refer</b>	Mr. Chairman, I move to refer Resolution ___ to Floor Committee ___ for further consideration and report.
<b>Substitute</b>	Mr. Chairman, I move the substitute resolution now provided to the Secretary.
<b>Remove omnibus</b>	I move to remove Overture ___ from Omnibus ___ and refer it to Floor Committee ___ for action.
<b>Request information</b>	Request for information: Would the floor committee clarify whether this language requires action or merely encourages action?
<b>Parliamentary inquiry</b>	Parliamentary inquiry: What motion is proper if I want this sent back to committee?
<b>Point of order</b>	Point of order. I believe the pending amendment is not germane to the resolution.
<b>Close debate</b>	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.

Use these phrases when the clock is moving and your brain has wandered off to the exhibit hall. Start with: **Mr. Chairman, [Name], [District], voting delegate. I rise to...** Then state the line below plainly.

Purpose	What to say
Speak in favor	"I rise in favor of Resolution ____."
Speak against	"I rise in opposition to Resolution ____."
Ask committee question	"I rise to request information from the floor committee."
Amend	"I move to amend by ____."
Substitute	"I move the adoption of the following substitute resolution."
Refer	"I move to refer this matter to ____."
Remove from consent calendar	"I request that Resolution ____ be removed from the consent calendar."
Remove from omnibus	"I move to remove Overture ____ from Omnibus ____."
Point of order	"Point of order."
Parliamentary inquiry	"Parliamentary inquiry."
Request information	"Request for information."
Close debate	"I move the previous question."
Extend debate	"I move to extend debate by ____."
Divide question	"I move to divide the question ____."
Counted vote	"I call for a division of the assembly."
Appeal chair	"I appeal from the decision of the chair."
Withdraw motion	"I request permission to withdraw my motion."

**When to use the quick line**

Use the shortest phrase when you need recognition fast. After the chair recognizes you, add your specific wording, page, line, resolution, overture, or committee number.

**Chairman-safe reminder**

Do not argue across the room. Address the chair, stay germane, and give the Secretary written text for amendments and substitutes when needed.

**Delegate posture:** Be clear. Be brief. Be charitable. Be ready. Be Lutheran enough to love order, and Gospel-centered enough to remember why the order exists. Christ is risen indeed.