

**One-sentence purpose:** An amendment changes the wording of the pending resolution so the convention can act clearly.

## 1. The Amendment Path

Step	Delegate action
1. <b>Target</b>	Name the exact resolution, page, line, resolved clause, or whereas you want changed.
2. <b>Write</b>	Use exact words. Strike, insert, strike and insert, or add one clear resolved clause.
3. <b>Test</b>	Ask: Is it substantive? Is it germane? Does it touch Constitution or Bylaws and need CCM review?
4. <b>Send</b>	Email the floor committee through <a href="mailto:lcmssecretary@lcms.org">lcmssecretary@lcms.org</a> . Ask them to incorporate or publish it.
5. <b>Publish</b>	Whenever possible, get amendments or substitutes into Today's Business before floor consideration.
6. <b>Bring</b>	Carry printed copies. If offered from the floor, provide written wording to the Secretary immediately.

### Send to the floor committee

**Subject:**

**ATTN Floor Committee [#]: Proposed Amendment to Resolution [#]**

**Include:**

- Resolution number and title
- Exact current wording and proposed wording
- One-paragraph reason
- Germaneness statement
- Delegate name, district, status, contact

*Ask: Please consider incorporating this wording or publishing it in Today's Business.*

### Common amendment types

Type	Use it to...
<b>Strike</b>	Remove words.
<b>Insert</b>	Add words at a specific place.
<b>Strike/insert</b>	Replace one wording with another.
<b>Add resolve</b>	Add one new action clause.
<b>Safeguard</b>	Prevent overreach or conscience-binding.
<b>Report clause</b>	Require a report by a stated time.
<b>Narrow mandate</b>	Change require to encourage where needed.

## 2. The Germane Test

### Ask five questions before you submit

- ✓ Same subject: Does it address the same issue?
- ✓ Same action: Does it modify, not replace with a new topic?
- ✓ Same actor: Does it direct the same office, board, committee, or group?
- ✓ Same effect: Does it adjust scope, clarity, timeline, reporting, or safeguard?
- ✓ Same authority: Can Synod in convention actually do this?

### Red flags the chair may rule out

- ! Introduces a new topic or new resolution.
- ! Turns thanks into discipline or policy into doctrine.
- ! Adds a bylaw change without CCM review.
- ! Directs an unrelated entity.
- ! Acts like a speech instead of exact wording.
- ! Only fixes punctuation or style.

## 3. Model Amendment Format

### Copy this structure

Proposed Amendment to Resolution [#]

Location: page [#], line [#], resolved [#].

Motion wording: I move to amend Resolution [#] by striking "[current words]" and inserting "[new words]."

Reason: This amendment preserves the concern while clarifying the action and avoiding overreach.

Germaneness: This directly modifies the pending resolution on the same subject and introduces no new business.

## 1. At the Microphone

### Safe opening and motion script

Mr. Chairman, [Name], [District], voting delegate. I rise to offer an amendment.  
 I move to amend Resolution [#], line [#], by striking "[current words]" and inserting "[new words]."  
 A written copy has been provided to the Secretary.

## 2. Two-Minute Defense

Frame	Say it this way
Position	I support the concern and urge adoption of the amendment.
Concern	The current wording is too broad, unclear, or may be read as a mandate.
Anchor	Cite Scripture, Confession, Handbook, report, or practical governance effect.
Effect	This preserves doctrine, clarifies action, and reduces unintended consequences.
Ask	Please vote yes on the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

## 3. Choose the Right Tool

Situation	Best floor action
Good resolution, bad word	Move to amend.
Missing safeguard or timeline	Move to amend by adding a clause.
Concern is valid but not ready	Move to refer.
Whole resolution needs replacement	Offer a substitute.
Buried in omnibus but deserves action	Move to remove from omnibus and refer.
Need a factual answer first	Request information.
Need procedure guidance	Parliamentary inquiry.
A rule is being violated	Point of order.
Not fixable and you oppose it	Speak against, or move to postpone indefinitely.

## 4. Better Ways to Say Hard Things

### Use these phrases

- The concern is real, but the wording is too broad.
- This amendment preserves the doctrine while removing overreach.
- Let us not bind consciences where Christ has left freedom.
- This adds accountability without creating unnecessary control.
- This keeps the action within the Synod's proper authority.
- This is germane because it directly modifies the pending resolution on the same subject.

### Final checklist before the mic

- Exact wording written?
- Page, line, resolve identified?
- Substantive and germane?
- No new unrelated business?
- CCM review handled if bylaws are touched?
- Written copy ready for Secretary?
- Can explain it in 30 seconds?

### Closing posture

A faithful amendment does not hijack the floor. It serves the floor. Speak clearly, amend narrowly, and keep Christ, the Gospel, and the church's shared witness at the center.

## SAFE AMENDMENT PATH

- 1. Name resolution, page, line, resolve.
- 2. Write exact words: strike, insert, or add.
- 3. Test: substantive, germane, allowed.
- 4. Send to committee: [lcmssecretary@lcms.org](mailto:lcmssecretary@lcms.org)
- 5. Ask for Today's Business publication.
- 6. Bring printed copy for Secretary.

### SUBJECT LINE

**ATTN Floor Committee [#]: Proposed Amendment to Resolution [#]**

### GERMANE = SAME

**Subject | Action | Actor | Effect | Authority**

## OFFER IT

**Mr. Chairman, [Name], [District], voting delegate. I rise to offer an amendment. I move to amend Resolution [#], line [#], by striking "[current words]" and inserting "[new words]." Written copy provided.**

## DEFEND IT IN 2 MINUTES

- Position: I urge adoption.
- Concern: wording is too broad/unclear.
- Anchor: Scripture, Confession, Handbook, report.
- Effect: preserves concern, avoids overreach.
- Ask: Please vote yes.

### **AVOID**

**New topic | bylaw change without CCM | typo edits | speeches disguised as wording | personal attacks**