

Who would true valour see? Plucking up the courage to speak at Synod

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Tips for Speaking at Synod



General Tips

Encouragement
Who is your audience?
Teamwork and
multiplicity of voices



Practical Tips

Types of Speaking
Preparing
Pre-recorded and
online contributions –
Online Green Room!
Debating Motions

- Conventions of Speaking
- Moving, Amending, Participating in Debate
- Speaking at microphones
- Time limits



Specific Tips

Using the Standing Orders
Falling Foul of the Standing Orders

General Tips



Be Encouraged!



**Consider your
audience**



**Work together and
support each other**

Practical Tips

- **Types of Speaking**
 - **Motions** – actions of the Synod, usually to say something (welcome, affirm, lament, ask, commend) or do something (bring in [a bill], to pass [a bill]) (SO 16-24, largely)
 - Move a motion, Second a motion, speak in debate for or against a motion, amend a motion
 - **Debate in ‘Committee’** on proposed legislation – line by line consideration of clauses and amendments to Bills (SO 25)
 - **Points of Order** – Pointing something out from the Standing Orders.
 - Rise in place, ‘Point of Order, Mr President’ – be specific, where in Standing Orders?
 - **Questions** – Just that, asking a question about something relevant to the business of the synod (SO 4).
 - No argument, no opinion, no extra facts.
 - Addressed to President or any member of Synod.
 - Asked on First and Second days – question must be given in writing by the closing time for inclusion in the notice paper (generally 3pm on the day)

Practical Tips

Preparation:

- Write down what you want to say
- Reiterate what you've heard and want to affirm; challenge what you don't
- Ask what new contribution to the debate you want to make
- Tend to avoid long anecdotes / personal experiences
- Write a strong ending – make explicit a call to support/reject motion

Pre-recorded and Online Contributions:

- All mover speeches for motions must be pre-recorded (SO 18.7A-D) – deadline for upload 1 October
- Negotiating the Online Green Room
- Thursday 28 September 7pm – Technical Briefing (trybooking.com/CKLTY)

Practical Tips – Debating Motions

- **Conventions of Speaking:**
 - Address Archbishop (or whoever is in the ‘big chair’) as Mr/Madam President
 - Begin with your full name (no titles) and parish (or capacity in which you’re on Synod). Don’t need your CV. Repeat, even if you think people should know you!
 - Declare whether speaking For or Against the motion, or “I move the motion standing in my name.”
 - Refer to other members of Synod formally, Mr/Ms/Dr/Professor X.
- **Moving or Seconding a motion (SO 18)**
 - Should be done by now – can be submitted up until 12noon on First Day, in writing, or else by leave granted by majority of Synod (not debated).
 - If you want to speak **against** or **amend** a motion – don’t let it become a ‘Formal Motion’ – stand in your place during the call-over (SO 20)

Practical Tips – Debating Motions

- **Speaking in Debate (SO 21):**
 - Generally, you can only speak once per motion (including any amendments), unless you're the mover in which case you can speak twice (SO21.7 – but SO 21.1 and SO 21.2?)
 - Usually two speakers at a time, For and Against. (SO 21.3)
- **Amendments**
 - May be offered from the floor or submitted in advance.
 - They can omit words and replace words (unless words previously considered and resolved to include (SO 21.5)), or add words (SO 21.1)
 - Amendments can't directly negate the original motion (SO 21.2)

Practical Tips – Debating Motions

- Find your way to a microphone! (SO 9.1)
 - Speak purposefully, clearly into the mic.
- Smile, you're on camera!
- Keep an eye on the clock! (SO 23.1)
 - Mover has 7 minutes (700 words), and finally 3 minutes (300 words) in reply
 - Seconder has 5 minutes (500 words)
 - Anyone else has 3 minutes (300 words)
 - Everyone can have up to 2 extensions of time by leave of Synod, 2 minutes each (but find a friend to ask leave of synod, can't do it yourself)
 - In total most motions have a total of 30 minutes (excluding Mover's reply) – though leave may be given for 15 minute extensions. (SO 23.3, 23.4)

Specific Tips – Using the Standing Orders

- Be sparing and careful with Points of Order – read the room
 - Rise in place, ‘Point of Order, Mr President’ – be specific, where in Standing Orders?
- SO 12 – Motions relating to the business of the meeting – Using the Standing Orders
 - At any time during debate on a motion, a member may move:
 - ‘that the House do now adjourn’ (SO 12.1a)
 - Supercedes motion ‘that the Synod not consider this matter further’ – takes the heat out (SO 12.2)
 - ‘whether in the opinion of the President the question should be now put’ (SO 12.1b)
 - Discretion of President to initiate a further motion to put the question, stop debate (SO 12.3)

Specific Tips – Using the Standing Orders

- **SO 12 – Motions relating to the business of the meeting – Using the Standing Orders**
 - **'that the Synod not consider this matter further' (SO 12.1c) ('the previous question')**
 - **May only be moved and seconded by someone who hasn't spoken yet (SO 12.5a,b)**
 - **Applies to the whole motion, not just amendments (SO 12.5e)**
 - **No debate (SO 12.5c)**
 - **Put immediately to the vote (SO 12.5d)**
 - **If carried – move on to next business (SO 12.6); If defeated – debate resumes (SO 12.7).**
 - **Effectively a way of shutting down debate and striking the business from the agenda – Synod makes no decision either way**
 - **“The previous question is one of the methods identified in standing order 89 for avoiding or delaying the putting of the question and preventing senators from being forced to express an opinion on a motion....It is a very rare procedure, having been used only twice in the Senate, but its ancient place in the parliamentary armoury makes it difficult to abandon completely though its value would appear to be purely vestigial.” – Annotated Standing Orders of the Australian Senate**
 - **'that an official document relevant to the question be read to the Synod' (SO 12.1e)**

Specific Tips – Falling Foul of the Standing Orders

- **SO 15 – Maintaining order – Falling Foul of the Standing Orders**
 - **When speaking nobody may:**
 - ‘impute improper motives to another member’ (SO 15.1a)
 - ‘reflect on another member’ (SO 15.1b)
 - ‘use offensive or unbecoming words’ (SO 15.1c)
 - ‘express themselves in a way that is [or President thinks could be] defamatory’ (SO 15.1d)
 - **Also, you can’t:**
 - ‘digress from subject matter’ relevant to question (SO 15.2a)
 - ‘comment upon words used by another member in a previous debate’ (SO 15.2b)
 - ‘allude to any other debate’ past or coming up at that session of Synod (SO 15.2c)
 - ‘comment on any vote’ (SO 15.2d)
 - **If ‘called to order’ you must sit down – though you may be permitted to explain, retract or apologize (SO 15.5)**

Questions? Discussion?