

HELPING PASTORS WITH THEIR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

September 2012

(from the General Secretary)

Absentee Voting

RROO 423-424

The prohibition for this is not just in the *Manual*; it is *Robert's Rules of Order (RROO) Newly Revised*. If someone votes by absentee ballot, but then there is discussion on an issue in the actual meeting, the person who voted by the absentee method will not have been informed about this information before he or she voted.

Ballot Approval

RROO 434

(lines 10-21)

The ballot for an annual meeting should be presented to the voting body **in advance** of the elections. If desired, the ballot could be presented in a church meeting on one Sunday, and then the voting could begin the following Sunday.

Nominating Committee

NOTE: Our bylaws override RROO by making the pastor the chair of the nominating committee. (*Manual* 113.10)

This is the method for determining what names are placed on the ballot for the annual meeting. A pastor should not simply provide the names for the ballot without the coordination/consultation with members of this committee.

Ballot Presentation

RROO 441

(lines 11-24)

Church members may **not** be instructed to vote "yes" or "no" for reelection of the entire church board on a list as one complete group. The church members must have the option of voting "yes" or "no" for **each** person nominated for a board member position. In the event that a local church is in pastoral transition, *Manual* 127.1 may be followed.

Polling Place

It is permissible to have a polling place designated in a separate area. With this allowance, attention should be given to ensure that each church member only votes one time during an official election period.

A basic premise of parliamentary procedure is that the will of the majority will be carried out, but that the minority will be heard.