

Parliamentary Procedure & Consensus Process Compared

	Consensus Process	Parliamentary Procedure
1	Matters are brought before the membership with the phrase " I Propose ," then follows a reading of the proposal.	Matters are brought before the membership with the phrase " I Move ," then follows a reading of the proposed motion.
2	Matters are continued before the membership with the phrase " I Agree " or " We Agree ." If the item is not on the agenda, the chair may suggest that the item be placed later on the agenda or on a subsequent agenda.	Matters are continued before the membership with the phrase " I Second ."
3	The chair then guides the discussion. The chair desires to hear from each member. Sometimes the chair will go around the circle several times. The chair may call on members who have not spoken. The chair, as well as the members, listens for the emerging consensus. They may restate sentences in other words to help along the consensus.	The speaker then asks for speakers on each side of the matter. Some of the speakers may " Move " amendments to the matter. These amendments must then be discussed and decided before the original matter can be finally decided.
4	There will come a time when consensus or unity seems close. One of the members or the secretary may say " I feel that we are close to consensus. Would the chair state our agreement? " The chair will guide the members to formulate the final wording.	When the time has come to close debate, one of the members will call for the question. When the question is called for, the speaker then guides the members to vote on closure of debate. The speaker will read the motion as amended. The speaker will then guide the members on voting on the motion.
5	The chair then says " I hear we are in agreement ." If no dissenting voice is heard, the chair proceeds to the next agenda item.	The speaker then announces the results of the vote. There are provisions for reconsideration. The speaker then proceeds to the next agenda item.