

Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship  
Consensus Decision Making  
March 2018

CMF places a high value on building consensus through a collaborative, inclusive, agreement seeking, participative and solution minded approach. Consensus building practices such as placing the wisdom of the group above self are also important during the final discernment step.

This document provides further definition for Step 5 of the Consensus Building and Decision Making Workflow. It is council's belief at this time that the best way to make decisions within the fellowship is to adopt a decision rule for decision making that defines consensus as follows:

Consensus definition: A generally accepted opinion among a group of people. Generally accepted opinion among a group of people is defined as a final discernment consent percentage of at least 75% of CMF members participating in the final discernment step who are 12 years of age or older.

CMF final discernment process will use paper ballots signed by CMF attendee. Absentee ballots will be available for persons that are unable to attend the meeting where final discernment input is gathered.

Final Discernment options will include Consent, Stand Aside and Oppose.

Intention to collect final discernment input on a proposal will be communicated via e-mail to the Fellowship at least one week prior to the final discernment meeting. Members who would like to be included in the final discernment process, but are unable to attend the discernment meeting will need to notify the church office prior to the discernment meeting to receive an absentee ballot.

It is expected that members have participated in the proposal development and modification process and have followed consensus building guidelines if they choose to be a part of the final discernment step. Church council will be responsible for monitoring adherence to consensus building participation requirements. If a member has been unable to participate in the consensus building process, but wishes to participate in the final discernment process, they may contact church council and request an exception.

CMF will use a consent percentage of 75% for proposal affirmation.

Consent percentage = Consent divided by (Consent + Oppose)

If stand aside percentage is greater than 25%, a proposal does not pass.

Stand aside percentage = Stand aside divided by (Consent + Stand aside + Oppose)

For final discernment to be valid, quorum will need to be established. Quorum definition: At least 50% of CMF members participate in the final discernment step. Church council will be responsible for maintaining the list of members used to determine quorum, will actively work at orientation of new members and will provide for the opportunity for persons to sign the covenant on a quarterly basis.

Example:

Membership = 75

Members participating in final discernment = 46

35 choose consent, six stand aside, and five oppose (46 total):

Consent percentage is 87.5%. (35/40)

Stand aside percentage is 13%. (6/46)

Quorum percentage is 61.3%. (46/75)

Oppose percentage is 12.5%. (5/40)

CMF Final Discernment Ballot

Proposal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that I have participated in the consensus building process for this proposal and have followed consensus building guidelines.

Consent       Stand Aside       Oppose

Comment:

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CMF Final Discernment Ballot

Proposal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that I have participated in the consensus building process for this proposal and have followed consensus building guidelines.

Consent       Stand Aside       Oppose

Comment:

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