

CONFIDENTIAL

R882a

COMMITTEE HEARING

Rules of Protocol

1. Respect shall be shown at all times to all in attendance at committee hearings, and especially to the moderator, the Senior Elders, and the Pastor.

114. 11017 2. U.S. COMMITTEE FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY?

Fairness of the proceedings, establishment of valid relevancy for information heard by the committee, adherence to the rules, and any disputes or appeals which may arise shall be decided by _____ (a selected committee) _____.

3. Objections to specific comments, specific lines of discussion, specific points of testimony, specific questions or lines of questioning, may be raised on the basis of unfairness by anyone in attendance at the proceedings. The objections may be stated without moderator recognition. When an objection has been raised, the proceedings shall be interrupted. The objector shall explain the reason for his objection. The moderator shall attempt to resolve the objection as quickly as possible. If the objector still is unsatisfied, he may appeal to the _____ (select committee of item 2) _____.

4. Objections may also be raised on the basis of lack of relevancy. Such objections shall be handled according to the procedure of rule 3 above. In the case of an objection for relevancy, if the objection is contested, then the relevancy must be reasonably proven and that the information objected to is reasonably needed to complete deliberations. (The relevancy shall be first proven privately to the subcommittee.) If relevancy is not reasonably proven at this time, and further testimony develops the relevancy needed, then on request the subcommittee shall reconsider their decision and may allow the testimony, or parts of it, in question.



5. The committee members and the committee moderator shall not allow prejudicial or judgmental comments regarding the parties involved; neither any statements or allegations impugning the character of another. The following are examples of statements that shall not be permitted:

"...is a liar"

"...is covering up"

"...has misused authority"

"...is an honest man"

"...is mentally ill"

"...has a (such and such) problem"

"...lied to me"

No statements assigning motives to another person's actions shall be allowed by witnesses. Example:

"...lied to cover up his actions"

Statements regarding the conclusions or opinions of witnesses bringing testimony or being questioned shall be stated as such. Example of OK statements:

"I concluded that he was not telling the truth"

"In my opinion ... was trying to coverup his actions"

"From my knowledge, that was not true"

"I had evidence/information to the contrary"

"I felt that was a misuse of authority"

"I felt ... was just filibustering"

"I knew that was wrong"

"I allege that ..."

"I believe that ..."

"In my opinion ... is guilty of this charge"

(The point: avoid such statements in the "absolute" (dogmatic) construction.)

Carefulness in speech is deemed essential to carry out these proceedings in a Christlike manner. Violators shall be interrupted and gently corrected by the moderator or a member of the committee.

6. During all information gathering and hearing phases, committee members shall not make any statements of the type in #5 above inasmuch as they smack of a closed mind, already having formed an opinion, bias, lack of objectivity, unwillingness to consider all the facts, etc. They also have the effect of tending to pre-bias other committee members and thus make fair deliberations more difficult or impossible.

Once all the evidence and result of information gathering is complete and the deliberation phase has begun, members may express personal opinions and judgments as to the charged using the qualifications of rule #5 above.

7. A subcommittee consisting of Scott Hartley, Jack DuBois, Jack Hicks, David Matherwell, and Lanny Peterson shall prepare the detailed instructions and questions for the deliberations phase by the committee.
8. The subcommittee of item 7 above shall draft the final written judgment according to the committee's findings on each charge and/or deliberation question.
9. The role of the moderator shall be to maintain order and respectful conduct and speech, keep discussion reasonably on the subject at hand, insist on following the rules, provide for the expeditious handling of committee affairs, and attempt to amicably resolve objections and questions as they arise. Objections, disputes, and appeals which cannot be simply resolved

re (b) the moderator shall be referred to (the subcommittee of item 2).

The moderator shall also be responsible to insure that any witnesses testifying before the committee have been instructed as to the applicable committee rules.

The Board of Senior Elders, who are also the legal directors of our church corporation, are responsible to God and this church, to assure the fairness, truth, respect, honesty, and justice of these hearings. We are also responsible to the government of our land for this corporation. The Senior Elders do not have the option of suspending their responsibility for church/corporate oversight, although they may choose not to exercise specific authority in the normal course of these hearings.