

The following paragraphs are from the booklet, Parliamentary Procedures in the PCUSA, by Marianne L. Wolfe, P.R.P. Keep scrolling down to open the entire booklet, attached as an Adobe file, below.

*"For us as Presbyterians, parliamentary law is a tool we use which is servant to our theological understanding of the purpose of a governing body: to seek God's will for our actions in the world, as we witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. It is **never an end in itself**. It is **always out of order**, in the church, to make parliamentary gamesmanship more important than our search for the "truth".*

Parliamentary procedures, as they are used in the church, are grounded in two assumptions, without which our decisions have no valid basis.

First, there is a presumption of the overwhelming desire for unity on the part of the members as a visible expression of the Body of Christ. It is from this covenant of Presbyterians with one another that the tenacity and patience to live with and work with differences of opinion derives. (G-4.0200)

Second, there is a presumption of the necessity of tension between majority and minority views as the means by which the Spirit is present in the Governing Bodies of the church. (G-1.0304,05)"

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