

the Informer newsletter

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Eunice - A Mother's Legacy

Eunice (2 Tim. 1:5) was Jewish, but apparently her father was not very orthodox: he violated one of the clear commands of the Law in arranging a match for his daughter with a Gentile (Acts 16:1). Later, when Timothy was born, he wasn't circumcised (16:3). So it seems that neither Eunice's father nor husband were observant of Judaism. But Eunice was. Paul praised her for her "genuine faith," which she shared in common with Lois, her mother (2 Tim. 1:5). Eunice imparted that faith to her son, Timothy, and more than anyone else, equipped him for a lifetime of usefulness to God.

Eunice is an encouragement for every woman faced with the daunting task of nurturing the spiritual life of her children, especially if she can't count on the help of a strong male. Eunice may have had no formal religious education and little encouragement from her family, except for Lois. But she had two crucial things going for her that offer hope for mothers today – **the inherent power of being a mother, and the dynamic power of a loving God.**

Gentle as a Nursing Mother

Paul felt great love for the Thessalonian believers, and he drew upon a touching image to communicate his affection, that of a woman nursing an infant (1 Thess. 2:7).

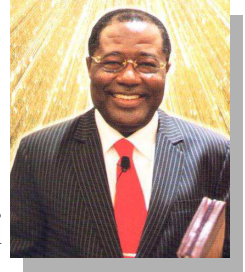
Most mothers in the first century world nursed their own infants. However, some wealthy women employed wet nurses. In that case, the child lived in the home of the wet nurse, who agreed to certain conditions such as not nursing other children and avoiding alcohol. The wet nurse took responsibility not only for feeding the child, but also for raising it until it was weaned – often up to three years of age. Many contracts specified that the wet nurse's fee had to be returned if the child died.

Paul clearly intended to convey a sense of tender affection and responsible, loving care for his spiritual children, the Thessalonians. In doing so, he showed a side of spiritual leadership and nurture that Christian leaders do well to emulate today.

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A Blessed Mother's Day to all Mothers: A Christian Virtuous Mother



An Excerpt from Dr. Daniel O.C.'s article

Proverbs 31:10 (NKJV)

"Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies."

A Christian mother is the greatest heritage God can give a man. Motherhood is a partnership with God. Anyone who takes a child by the hand takes the child's mother by the heart. I quote, George Washington. "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother."

The word virtuous means good, moral, ethical, honorable, incorruptible, worthy, praiseworthy, righteous and upright. Saints of the living God, your mother is praise worthy. She is honourable and good.

She is worthy and ethical. Therefore, acknowledge, love, cherish and respect her with thanksgiving to God.

MOTHERS ARE ALSO VIRTUOUS WOMEN (Proverbs 31:10-31)

- * Mothers are invaluable (verse 10). That means she is precious, priceless and inestimable.
- * Trustworthy (verse 11).

- * Good and true (verse 12).
- * Ingenious. She is creative, bright, brilliant, clever, inventive, resourceful and shrewd (verse 13).
- * Laborious (verse 14). She is hardworking and tough.
- * She is dutiful (verse 15). Our mothers are conscientious, devoted, obedient, respectful, reverential and submissive.
- * Mothers are versatile (verse 16). Mothers are adaptable, adjustable, all-rounders and flexible.
- * Fortified in strength (verse 17). Mothers are protective. They shore up and support to maintain a good family background.
- * Mothers are joyful and peaceable (verse 18). They always keep and maintain the joy and peace of the family.
- * Sober and alert (verse 18). Mothers are alert, temperate, composed, level-headed, reasonable and steady.
- * Mothers are skillful (verse 19). They are able, competent and proficient in all aspects of home affairs.
- * Benevolent and merciful (verse 20). Mothers are filled with kindness, altruistic, benign, caring, charitable and generous. They are gracious, forgiving, compassionate, tender-hearted and sympathetic.
- * Mothers are fearless (verse 21). Mothers are brave, bold, courageous and undaunted.

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The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord

By Rev. Mike Taylor, Raphah Ministries President



Joel 2:11 (NCV)

"The Lord shouts out orders to his army. His army is very large! Those who obey him are very strong! The Lord's day of judging is an overwhelming and terrible day. No one can stand up against it!"

The title of this message comes from Joel 2:11. "For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible. Who can endure it?"

A few months ago, the burden of the Lord came on me. I felt sad but I knew I was not sad but feeling the heart of God. God was feeling sad because terrible times are coming to America. You might ask the question how it can be the great and terrible day of the Lord. It will be great for the God's people but terrible for the unrepentant.

I want to be clear in this message that I am not saying we will experience the literal day of the Lord. I believe this is a type and shadow of what is to come. However, I do believe at some point the literal day of the Lord will come.

fasting and mourning. God has always been for his people. Because they had a change of heart, He could heal their land and provide restoration for their life. That which had been destroyed by the locust plague would be restored and the invading army would be removed.

For the unrepentant their fate will not be good. Amos 5:18-20 says "Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark with no brightness in it?"

The enemy knows that his time is short. God loves justice and righteousness. A lot of what we are seeing in the world today is unjust and unrighteous. God will not be mocked. As God continues to expose the evil in our land, we will see more of the demonic rising up. Already the enemy is turning on himself.

As God's people we must repent first and get right with God. This is a time when we must stay engaged in the fight and pray. I believe we have turned a major corner. It's precisely why the enemy has stepped up his attacks. It is a sure sign we are advancing.

The day of the Lord is a period at the end of human history when God's purpose for humankind will be fulfilled. You can read about this in Joel chapter 2 and Amos chapter 5. Let's look first at what happens when we repent. In chapter 2 of Joel, it appears that Joel's appeals for repentance were met which resulted in national

Before the great awakening a rude awakening must come. We are experiencing the rude awakening now as we see all the evil in the world. The good news is eyes are being opened, many for the first time. Let's continue to pray that God's justice will prevail. Let's continue to believe for a worldwide spiritual awakening. ♥

Running A Virtual Church Meeting

Excerpt from Church Tax & Law

Prior to March 2020, virtual business meetings were rare or nonexistent for most churches. Many churches had never even entertained options for including members virtually in a business meeting hosted online. And then COVID-19 changed the world. Virtual church business meetings became a necessity—even commonplace.

Now, hybrid meetings—where some members attend in person and others attend virtually—are the norm in many places. But what are the elements of a properly run, fully virtual or hybrid meeting? How can you be sure that a quorum is present that members are properly recognized, and that votes are accurately counted?

This article will tackle these and other questions with the goal of ensuring your meetings with members attending virtually follow proper parliamentary procedure.

Series Overview

Church business meetings take place any time church members, boards, or committees get together to conduct official church business—from annual member meetings to weekly or periodic board or committee meetings where votes are taken and decisions are made.

This five-part article series is designed to provide simple and straightforward guidance to church leaders on parliamentary procedure and best practices for business meetings. Articles cover the following key areas:

[Part 1.](#) Preparing for a Church Business Meeting

[Part 2.](#) Making Motions at a Church Business Meeting

[Part 3.](#) Voting at a Church Business Meeting

[Part 4.](#) Taking Minutes at a Church Business Meeting

[Part 5.](#) Running a Virtual Church Business Meeting

Are virtual business meetings a permissible option for your church?

The first step to holding a proper virtual church business meeting is to determine whether your church is permitted to conduct business virtually. The default rule under *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, the rule book that many churches follow, is that a church is not permitted to hold a virtual business meeting unless the state law that applies to that church or the bylaws of that church explicitly allow such meetings.

To determine this permissibility, look first in your church's bylaws for provisions that address telephonic meetings, electronic meetings, or virtual meetings. Sometimes bylaws will state that a church can hold meetings by any method that allows all participants or members to hear each other simultaneously. If this type of provision exists, your church can permissibly hold a virtual business meeting. If there is nothing in the church bylaws regarding virtual meetings, the next step is to check the state law that applies to your church to see if it includes any blanket provisions allowing organizations to meet virtually even without bylaws language to that effect.

If neither state law nor your church's bylaws allow for virtual business meetings, holding one and taking action at it is technically impermissible and definitely inadvisable. If a church needs to take action that simply cannot wait for an in-person meeting, it can hold a virtual business meeting and then ask the members to ratify the action taken at a later, in-person meeting. But this procedure is

risky since the church is under no obligation to sanction the decisions made at the virtual meeting. The best course is to amend your church's bylaws to include a provision that allows virtual attendance and participation at any business meetings to be held by the members or any smaller group (e.g., deacons, elders, committees, and so on).

How does a church confirm that a quorum is present at a virtual business meeting?

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present for an organization to conduct business. This term applies to small boards and committees, as well as general members meetings. For a business meeting of all members, that number, usually expressed as a percentage, should be specified in your church's bylaws. If your church's bylaws do not state a quorum requirement, follow the requirement found in the state law that applies to your church.

For a general members business meeting, an accurate roll of church members—or as close to an accurate roll as possible—is the place to start when determining whether a quorum is present. Follow these guidelines:

- First, calculate the number needed for a quorum by multiplying the decimal version of the percentage stated in your bylaws or state law by the total number of church members on the most-current membership roll.

For example, if the current membership roll includes 150 members, and the bylaws state a quorum requirement of 20 percent, multiply 20 times 150. A quorum for meetings would need to be a minimum of 30 members present either in person or virtually.

- Second, organize the roll alphabetically by last name and include the name of each individual member, even if one household includes multiple members.

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A Blessed Mother's...Continued from page 2

- * Mothers have good taste (verse 22).
- * Mothers are to be respected (verse 23). We must always give high regard to our mothers. Mothers are worthy of our admiration, esteem, recognition, respect and consideration.
- * Mothers are industrious (verse 24). Mothers are purposeful, tireless, zealous, energetic and diligent.
- * Mothers are honest (verse 25). Mothers are truthful, candid, frank and trustworthy.
- * Hopeful (verse 25).
- * Wise and kind (verse 26).
- * Prudent and active (verse 27).
- * She is called blessed and more so an ideal wife (verse 28).
- * She excels in virtue (verse 29).
- * She is God fearing (verse 30).
- * She is rewardful and praiseworthy (verse 31).

Let us remember that the greatest blessing on earth are MOTHERS! Let us all honor and appreciate our MOTHERS for the glory of God Most High in Jesus' mighty name, Amen! Shout a loud "Amen & Amen," somebody! ♥

Running a Virtual Church...continued from page 3

- Third, use a virtual meeting software that allows members to be placed in a waiting room before entering the meeting, and then ask members in the waiting room to change their screen name to be their full name plus the name of the individuals in the household that are attending the meeting through that specific device.

For example, if a husband and wife are viewing and participating in the meeting together using the same computer, one of their names should be the primary screen name and the name of the spouse should be in parentheses, like this: Larry Long-Time Member (Lisa). This format indicates to the staff helping with the meeting that there are two members present in that household and that both members should be counted to determine whether a quorum is present.

Even if your church isn't concerned about meeting its quorum requirements, using this format to identify the individuals present at the meeting is helpful for recognizing members and facilitating discussion.

- Fourth, at the announced start time of the meeting, those confirming the presence of a quorum should total the members present in person and those participating virtually, then verify the quorum requirement is met before starting the meeting.

A similar process would be followed for determining that a quorum is present for a small group, committee, or board meeting.

How does a church facilitate discussion at a virtual business meeting?

Discussion in a virtual business meeting can mirror what might happen in person but cannot replicate or replace it.

Meeting in person is still the best way to allow for as effective and inclusive of a discussion as possible on a topic. Virtual meetings may allow for greater attendance, but more people at a meeting does not necessarily equal more participation, and a virtual environment often slows the democratic process such that fewer total members can speak in a given time frame.

When a motion is made and the chairperson asks for discussion, it is helpful to use the reaction buttons within virtual meeting software to seek recognition.

Depending on the size of the meeting and the nature of the topics being discussed, the chairperson could simply ask members who want to speak to select the software's "raised hand" icon. The chairperson could also provide more options for participation by asking members to select specific icons to indicate that they want to speak in favor or in opposition, or to indicate that they want to make a motion that has priority (such as a point of order).

Caution. Allowing members to engage in discussion on an item of business through a software's chat feature is undesirable because that format removes all limits on the amount of time or number of times that one member can speak on a topic and, therefore, violates one of the most fundamental principles of parliamentary law—that each member has an equal right to speak.

How does a church facilitate voting at a virtual business meeting?

When determining how to allow virtual voting, the first question to ask is whether both members and nonmembers will attend the meeting. If only members will attend, voting can likely be accomplished through the virtual meeting software that you are using.

The next question to ask is whether votes must be secret (i.e., by ballot). Votes are not required to be secret unless the bylaws specify this requirement or unless a vote is taken to require that all or certain types of votes be conducted by ballot.

If only members are voting and votes do not need to be taken by ballot, you can use the raised hand button in the virtual meeting software to take a vote. On a noncontroversial matter, a chairperson may be able to determine whether a motion is adopted simply by eyeballing the number of hands raised just as would occur if the members were meeting in person.

On a closer vote, though, the chairperson may need to count the raised hands to determine the result. If this is the case, and you have a large group, you may want to consider using the software's polling feature, which automatically counts the votes. The difficulty with that option is that it does not account for multiple members who are attending under one login. In this case, manual counting would be necessary. If nonmembers are virtually attending a meeting, there are two main options for taking a vote and ensuring that the non-members are not voting.

Option 1. Transfer all nonmembers to a "breakout room" within the software while the members vote in the main meeting room. Once the voting is completed, you can move the nonmembers back to the main meeting room. This may sound complicated, but it can be done efficiently with a little practice, preparation, and knowledgeable staff.

Option 2. Use a voting software separate from the virtual meeting software and provide that voting link by email to the members in virtual attendance at the meeting. If your bylaws require secret ballot voting, it would be important to select software that allows for that option.

The choice to utilize hybrid or virtual formats

Though many churches have now become very comfortable operating in the virtual space, it is important to realize that meeting logistics become much more complicated when a hybrid meeting format is used. When attendees are present *both* virtually and in person, leadership will face many more challenges than they would deal with in an all-virtual or all-in-person meeting.

Something intangible is lost by meeting virtually. Though the same decisions can be made, collaboration is minimized, the informal conversations in the hallways disappear, and the "feel" of the group is different when some or all of the participants are not in one physical space together. Additionally, transacting the business in virtual and hybrid meetings takes longer.

In short, physical presence matters. Allowing virtual participation, even with the intent of greater member attendance, is not necessarily better, and leaders should give serious thought to the details of quorum and discussion before allowing a hybrid format. □

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