



FOR ACTION

**Amendments to the constitution and rules**

**I. Preliminary action**

*The Ninth Assembly is asked to endorse the decision of the Central Committee to move to the consensus decision-making method.<sup>1</sup> Since the adoption of the consensus method has implications on the Constitution and Rules of the WCC, and since the move to the consensus method institutional and cultural change, the Ninth Assembly is invited to inaugurate its work on the amendments to the Constitution and Rules of the WCC making a decision on this matter.*

1. In February 2002, the Central Committee, recognizing the spirit of mutual trust and commitment to discerning the mind of Christ, and receiving the proposals of the Special Commission on Orthodox Participation in the WCC decided that the Council move to a consensus method of decision-making. In February 2005, the Central Committee adopted the new Rule XX (“Conduct of Meetings”) thus formally adopting the consensus method. The new rule envisages that a limited number of matters (e.g. constitutional changes; elections) will still be decided by vote and includes the possibility to move from consensus procedures to decision making by vote when a decision must be reached.

**Proposed action:** *The Ninth Assembly is asked to affirm the decision of the Central Committee.*

**II. Further implementation steps (for information)**

2. The Central Committee affirmed that the adoption of the consensus method of decision-making constituted a major change in the life and work of the WCC and that it was appropriate that such a measure be subjected to an evaluation at an agreed upon time. Therefore, in 2005, the Central Committee recommended that the second full meeting of the Central Committee after the Ninth Assembly reflect on and evaluate the experience of using the consensus method. This evaluation will allow the Central Committee to deepen its understanding of the consensus method and to discern whether any clarifications to Rule XX (“Conduct of Meetings”) are necessary.

3. In the course of the discussions on the amendments to the Rules approved by the Central Committee in 2005, several matters of detail have been noted which will require further consideration. These and other matters of detail may also come up in the discussions on the amendments to the Rules by the Ninth Assembly. The Executive Committee, at its meeting in September 2005, recommended that all such matters emerging from the adoption of the new Rules be recorded and brought to the Central Committee in September 2006 for consideration and decision.

<sup>1</sup> See pp.61-68 of the Assembly Programme Book, *Rule XX: Conduct of Meetings*.

### III. Procedure

*The Ninth Assembly is asked to amend three articles of the Constitution<sup>2</sup> of the WCC, and to confirm the amendments made by the Central Committee to four specific Rules<sup>3</sup> of the WCC.*

1. The proposals for changes to the Constitution and Rules arose out of the work of the Special Commission on Orthodox Participation in the WCC. The proposed amendments touch on two of the five main themes with which the Special Commission has been engaged: *decision-making* and *membership*. Concerning *membership*, a Membership Study Group appointed by the Executive Committee worked in consultation with the Special Commission. The proposed amendments to the Constitution and the amendments to the Rules are the result of the recommendations on *decision-making* and *membership* in the final report of the Special Commission approved by the Central Committee in 2002.

2. A first reading of the amendments to the Rules on *membership* was approved by the Central Committee in 2002. The Steering Committee of the Special Commission and the Executive Committee further developed the wording and formulated the proposed amendment on *membership* to the Constitution. The proposed amendment on membership to the Constitution and the amendments to the Rules were approved by the Central Committee in 2003 and subsequently sent to the member churches. Comments received from the churches were considered by the Steering Committee of the Special Commission and the Executive Committee, and the amendments were approved in their present reading by the Central Committee in 2005.

3. The amendments to the Rules on *decision-making* were formulated by the Steering Committee of the Special Commission and the Executive Committee and approved by the Central Committee in 2005. The proposed amendment to the Constitution on decision-making, submitted to the member churches in due time, simply conform the wording of Article VI to reflect the wording adopted by the Central Committee to describe the process of making decisions.

4. Amendments to the Rules of the WCC are governed by the final Rule XVII (old)/XXI (new) of the Rules of the WCC (on page 68 of the Programme Book) and can be accomplished by the Central Committee, with the provision that amendments to specified Rules « shall not come into effect until it has been confirmed by the Assembly ». These are Rule I addressing membership (pages 44 – 46), Rule V (old)/VI (new) and Rule VII (new) addressing Central Committee, and Rule XVII (old)/XXI (new) addressing amendments to the Rules. The Ninth Assembly is asked to confirm the amendments to these four specific Rules.

When the Ninth Assembly has confirmed the amended Rule I of the Rules of the WCC, the assembly will be asked to approve an amendment to Rule III (old)/IV (new) addressing the Assembly, requested to conform the wording, in two locations, to the wording of the amended Rule I.

5. Amendments to the Constitution of the WCC are governed by Article VII of the Constitution and can be accomplished only by an assembly. The Ninth Assembly is asked to approve three amendments to the Constitution. The first is a substantive amendment to Article II “Membership” for which entirely new wording is offered. The second amendment is requested to conform the wording of Article VI of the Constitution, in two locations, to reflect the wording that has been adopted by the Central Committee to describe the process of making decisions.

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<sup>2</sup> See pages 40 – 44 of the Assembly Programme Book. This is the amended Constitution as proposed by the Central Committee. The old and the amended wording of the Articles, presented in parallel columns, can be found on pages 3-4 and 8 of this document.

<sup>3</sup> See pages 44 – 68 of the Assembly Programme Book. These are the amended Rules as adopted by the Central Committee. The old and the amended wording of the Rules, presented in parallel columns, can be found on pages 4-8 and 8-12 of this document.

When the Ninth Assembly has confirmed the amended Rule I of the Rules of the WCC, the assembly will be asked to approve a third amendment to the Constitution, required to conform the wording of Article V of the Constitution, in two locations, to reflect the new categories of membership indicated in amended Rule I of the Rules of the WCC.

#### IV. Amendments to the Constitution and Rules

##### 1. ARTICLE II OF THE CONSTITUTION

The new wording of Article II of the Constitution was elaborated and eventually approved by the Central Committee in February 2005. According to Article VII of the Constitution notice of it was sent to the member churches six months before the Ninth Assembly and the amended version reflects comments received.

###### *Old*

###### **II. Membership**

Those churches shall be eligible for membership in the World Council of Churches which express their agreement with the Basis upon which the Council is founded and satisfy such criteria as the Assembly or the Central Committee may prescribe. Election to membership shall be by a two-thirds vote of the member churches represented at the Assembly, each member church having one vote. Any application for membership between meetings of the Assembly may be considered by the Central Committee; if the application is supported by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Committee present and voting, this action shall be communicated to the churches that are members of the World Council of Churches, and unless objection is received from more than one-third of the member churches within six months the applicant shall be declared elected.

###### *Amended*

###### **II. Membership**

Churches shall be eligible for membership in the fellowship of the World Council of Churches who express their agreement with the basis upon which the Council is founded and satisfy such criteria **for membership** as the assembly or central committee may prescribe. The central committee shall consider applications for membership according to the consensus model of decision-making. The application shall be accepted for a specified interim period of participation in the work of the World Council of Churches and for interaction with the local fellowship of member churches. The member churches of the World Council of Churches shall be consulted during the interim period. Following the interim period, the central committee shall assess whether a consensus of member churches has developed in favour of the application, in which event the applicant church shall be considered a new member church. **If there is no consensus, the central committee shall deem the application rejected.**

**Proposed action:** *The Ninth Assembly approves the amended Article II of the Constitution of the World Council of Churches.*

##### 2. ARTICLE VI OF THE CONSTITUTION

The amendment to Article VI of the Constitution is a consequence of the decision of the Central Committee to adopt the consensus method of decision-making. According to Article VII of the Constitution notice of it was sent to the member churches six months before the Ninth Assembly.

###### *Old*

###### *Amended*

## VI. Other ecumenical Christian Organizations

1. Such world confessional bodies and such international ecumenical organizations as may be designated by the Central Committee may be invited to send non-voting representatives to the Assembly and to the Central Committee, in such numbers as the Central Committee shall determine.

2. Such national councils and regional conferences of churches, other Christian councils and missionary councils as may be designated by the Central Committee may be invited to send non-voting representatives to the Assembly and to the Central Committee, in such numbers as the Central Committee shall determine.

**Proposed action:** *The Ninth Assembly approves the amended Article VI of the Constitution of the World Council of Churches.*

## VI. Other ecumenical Christian organizations

1. Such world confessional bodies and such international ecumenical organizations as may be designated by the central committee may be invited to send representatives to the assembly and to the central committee, in such numbers as the central committee shall determine; however, these representatives *shall not have the right to participate in decision-making.*

2. Such national councils and regional conferences of churches, other Christian councils and missionary councils as may be designated by the central committee may be invited to send representatives to the assembly and to the central committee, in such numbers as the central committee shall determine; however, these *representatives shall not have the right to participate in decision-making.*

### 3. RULE I OF THE WCC RULES

The amended Rule I of the Rules was elaborated in consultation with the member churches and eventually adopted by the Central Committee in February 2005.

#### *Old*

#### **I. Membership of the World Council of Churches**

Members of the World Council of Churches are those churches which, having constituted the Council or having been admitted to membership, continue in membership. The term "church" as used in this article includes an association, convention or federation of autonomous churches. A group of churches within a country or region may determine to participate in the World Council of Churches as one church. The General Secretary shall maintain the official list of member churches noting any special arrangement accepted by the Assembly or Central Committee.

The following rules shall pertain to membership:

#### *Amended*

#### **I. Membership in the fellowship of the World Council of Churches**

The World Council of Churches is comprised of churches which have constituted the Council or which have been admitted into membership and which continue to belong to the fellowship of the World Council of Churches. The term "church" as used in this article could also include an association, convention or federation of autonomous churches. A group of churches within a country or region, or within the same confession, may choose to participate in the World Council of Churches as one member. Churches within the same country or region or within the same confession may apply jointly to belong to the fellowship of the Council, in order to respond to their common calling, to strengthen their joint participation and/or to satisfy the requirement of minimum size rule (I.3.b.3). Such groupings of churches are encouraged by the World Council of Churches; each individual church within the grouping must satisfy the criteria for membership in the fellowship of the World Council of Churches, except the requirements of size. A

church seeking affiliation with a grouping of autonomous churches which is a member of the World Council of Churches must agree with the basis and fulfil the criteria for membership.

The general secretary shall maintain the official lists of member churches that have been accepted to belong to the fellowship of the World Council of Churches, noting any special arrangement accepted by the assembly or central committee. Separate lists shall be maintained of member churches belonging to the fellowship of the WCC that do or do not participate in decision-making.

### 1. *Application*

A church which wishes to become a member of the World Council of Churches shall apply in writing to the General Secretary.

### 2. *Processing*

The General Secretary shall submit all such applications to the Central Committee (see Art. II of the Constitution) together with such information as he or she considers necessary to enable the Assembly or the Central Committee to make a decision on the application.

### 3. *Criteria*

In addition to expressing agreement with the Basis upon which the Council is founded (Art. I of the Constitution), an applicant must satisfy the following criteria to be eligible for membership:

- a) A church must be able to take the decision to apply for membership without obtaining the permission of any other body or person.
- b) A church must produce evidence of sustained independent life and organization.
- c) A church must recognize the essential interdependence of the churches, particularly those of the same confession, and must practise constructive ecumenical relations with other churches within its country or region. This will normally mean that the church is a member of the national council of churches or similar body and of the regional ecumenical organisation.

### 4. *Size*

### 1. *Application*

A church that wishes to join the World Council of Churches shall apply in writing to the general secretary.

### 2. *Processing*

The general secretary shall submit all such applications through the executive committee to the central committee (see article II of the constitution) together with such information as he or she considers necessary to enable the central committee to make a decision on the application.

### 3. *Criteria*

Churches applying to join the World Council of Churches (“applicant churches”) are required first to express agreement with the basis on which the Council is founded and confirm their commitment to the purposes and functions of the Council as defined in articles I and III of the constitution. The basis states: “The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Applicant churches should give an account of how their faith and witness relate to these norms and practices:

#### a) *Theological*

1. In its life and witness, the church professes faith in the triune God according to the scriptures, and as this faith is reflected in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed.
2. The church maintains a ministry of proclaiming the gospel and celebrating the sacraments as understood by its doctrines.

a) In addition to the criteria under Rule I.3 an applicant church must ordinarily have at least 25,000 members. The Central Committee may decide for exceptional reasons to admit into membership a church that does not fulfil the criterion of size.

b) Churches in the same country or region that do not fulfil the criterion of size may jointly apply for membership and are encouraged by the World Council to do so.

#### 5. Associate membership

a) A church otherwise eligible for membership may be elected to associate membership in the same manner as member churches are elected:

- 1) if the applicant would be denied membership solely under Rule I.4(a). A church applying for associate membership for this reason must ordinarily have at least 10,000 members;
- 2) if the applicant, for reasons which must be approved by the Central Committee, expresses its desire to be in associate membership.

b) An associate member church may participate in all activities of the Council; its representatives to the Assembly shall have the right to speak but not to vote. Associate member churches shall be listed separately on the official list maintained by the General Secretary.

c) Each associate member church shall make an annual contribution to the general budget of the Council. The amount of the contribution shall be agreed upon in consultation between the church and the Council and shall be regularly reviewed.

d) Each associate member church shall, in ways commensurate with its resources and in consultation with the Council, participate in assuming responsibility for the costs of the Council's programmes and for expenses related to travel and accommodation of its representatives to Council events.

e) The implications of not fulfilling such obligations shall be such as the Central Committee shall decide.

#### 6. Financial participation

a) Each member church shall make an annual contribution to the general budget of the Council. The amount of the contribution shall be agreed upon in consultation

3. The church baptizes in the name of the one God, *"Father, Son and Holy Spirit"* and acknowledges the need to move towards the recognition of the baptism of other churches.

4. The church recognizes the presence and activity of Christ and the Holy Spirit outside its own boundaries and prays for the gift of God's wisdom to all in the awareness that other member churches also believe in the Holy Trinity and the saving grace of God.

5. The church recognizes in the other member churches of the WCC elements of the true church, even if it does not regard them "as churches in the true and full sense of the word" (Toronto statement).

#### b) Organizational

1. The church must produce evidence of sustained autonomous life and organization.

2. The church must be able to take the decision to apply for formal membership in the WCC and continue to belong to the fellowship of the WCC without obtaining the permission of any other body or person.

3. An applicant church must ordinarily have at least fifty thousand members. The central committee, for exceptional reasons, may dispense with this requirement and accept a church that does not fulfil the criteria of size.

4. An applicant church with more than 10,000 members but less than 50,000 members that has not been granted membership for exceptional reasons under rule I.3.b.3,<sup>2</sup> but is otherwise eligible for membership, can be admitted as a member subject to the following conditions: (a) it shall not have the right to participate in decision-making in the assembly, and (b) it may participate with other churches in selecting five representatives to the central committee in accordance with rule IV.4.b.3. Such church shall be considered as a member church belonging to the fellowship of the WCC in all other respects.

5. Churches must recognize the essential interdependence of the member churches belonging to the fellowship of the WCC,

between the church and the Council and shall be regularly reviewed.

b) Each member church shall, in ways commensurate with its resources and in consultation with the Council, participate in assuming responsibility for the costs of the Council's programmes and for expenses related to travel and accommodation of its representatives to Council events.

c) The implications of not fulfilling such obligations shall be such as the Central Committee shall decide.

#### 7. Consultation

Before admitting a church to membership or associate membership, the appropriate world confessional body or bodies and national council or regional ecumenical organisation shall be consulted.

#### 8. Resignation

A church which desires to resign its membership in the Council can do so at any time. A church which has resigned but desires to rejoin the Council must again apply for membership.

particularly those of the same confession, and should make every effort to practise constructive ecumenical relations with other churches within their country or region. This will normally mean that the church is a member of the national council of churches or similar body and of the regional/sub-regional ecumenical organization.

#### 4. Consultation

Before admitting a church to membership in the fellowship of the World Council of Churches, the appropriate world confessional body or bodies and national council or regional ecumenical organization shall be consulted.

#### 5. Resignation

A church which desires to resign its membership in the fellowship of the Council can do so at any time. A church which has resigned but desires to rejoin the Council must again apply for membership.

**Proposed action:** *The Ninth Assembly confirms the amended Rule I of the Rules of the World Council of Churches.*

## 4. ARTICLE V OF THE CONSTITUTION

The confirmation of the amended Rule I of the Rules has a consequence on Article V of the Constitution. The amendment to Article V reflects the new categories of membership indicated in the amended Rule I.

### *Old*

#### V. Organization

##### 1. The Assembly

c) The Assembly shall have the following functions:

3) to elect not more than 5 members from among the representatives which the associate member churches have elected to the Assembly;

##### 2. The Central Committee

b) The Central Committee shall be composed of the President or Presidents of

### *Amended*

#### V. Organization

##### 1. The assembly

c) The assembly shall have the following functions:

3) to elect not more than 5 members from among the representatives **elected to the assembly by churches which do not fulfil the criteria of size and have not been granted membership for exceptional reasons;**

##### 2. The central committee

b) The central committee shall be composed of the president or presidents of the World

the World Council of Churches and not more than 150 members.

2) Not more than 5 members shall be elected by the Assembly from among the representatives whom the associate member churches have elected to the Assembly.

Council of Churches and not more than 150 members.

2) Not more than 5 members shall be elected by the assembly from among the representatives elected to the assembly by **churches which do not fulfil the criteria of size and have not been granted membership for exceptional reasons.**

**Proposed action:** *The Ninth Assembly approves the amended Article V of the Constitution of the World Council of Churches.*

## 5. RULE IV OF THE WCC RULES

The confirmation of the amended Rule I of the Rules has a consequence on Rule IV of the Rules. The amendment to Rule IV reflects the new categories of membership indicated in the amended Rule I.

### *Old*

#### III. The Assembly

##### 1. Composition of the Assembly

b) Persons with the right to speak but not to vote

In addition to the delegates, who alone have the right to vote, the following categories of persons may attend meetings of the Assembly with the right to speak:

3. Representatives of associate member churches: Each associate member church may elect one representative.

##### 4. Nominations Committee of the Assembly

b) The Nominations Committee in consultation with the officers of the World Council and the Executive Committee shall make nominations for the following:

3) not more than 5 members of the Central Committee from among the representatives which the associate member churches have elected to the Assembly.

### *Amended*

#### IV. The assembly

##### 1. Composition of the assembly

b) Persons with the right to speak but not to **participate in decision-making**

In addition to the delegates, who alone have the right to vote, the following categories of persons may attend meetings of the assembly with the right to speak:

3) Representatives of **churches which do not fulfil the criteria of size and have not been granted membership for exceptional reasons: Each one of these churches** may elect one representative.

##### 4. Nominations committee of the assembly

b) The nominations committee in consultation with the officers of the World Council and the executive committee shall make nominations for the following:

3) not more than 5 members of the central committee from among the representatives elected to the assembly by the **churches which do not fulfil the criteria of size and have not been granted membership for exceptional reasons.**

**Proposed action:** *The Ninth Assembly confirms the amended Rule IV of the Rules of the World Council of Churches.*

## 6. RULE VI OF THE RULES OF THE WCC



The decision of the Central Committee to adopt the consensus method of decision-making has a consequence on Rule VI of the Rules. The amended Rule VI was approved by the Central Committee in February 2005. It is subject to confirmation by the Ninth Assembly.

*Old*

**V. Central Committee**

*1. Membership*

b) Any member church, not already represented, may send one representative to the meetings of the Central Committee. Such a representative shall have the right to speak but not to vote.

c) If a regularly elected member of the Central Committee is unable to attend a meeting, the church to which the absent member belongs shall have the right to send a substitute, provided that the substitute is ordinarily resident in the country where the absent member resides. Such a substitute shall have the right to speak and to vote. If a member, or his or her substitute, is absent without excuse for two consecutive meetings, the position shall be declared vacant, and the Central Committee shall fill the vacancy according to the provisions of Article V.2 (b) (3) of the Constitution.

d) Moderators and Vice-Moderators of committees, commissions and boards who are not members of the Central Committee may attend meetings of the Central Committee and shall have the right to speak but not to vote.

e) Advisers for the Central Committee may be appointed by the Executive Committee after consultation with the churches of which they are members. They shall have the right to speak but not to vote.

f) Members of the staff of the World Council appointed by the Central Committee as specified under Rule IX.3 shall have the right to attend the sessions of the Central Committee unless on any occasion the Central Committee shall otherwise determine. When present they shall have the right to speak but not to vote.

*3. Nominations Committee of the Central Committee*

**(see new Rule VII)**

*5. Functions*

In exercising the powers set forth in the Constitution the Central Committee shall

*Amended*

**VI. Central committee**

*1. Membership*

b) Any member church, not already represented, may send one representative to the meetings of the central committee. Such a representative shall have the right to speak but **not to participate in decision-making.**

c) If a regularly elected member of the central committee is unable to attend a meeting, the church to which the absent member belongs shall have the right to send a substitute, provided that the substitute is ordinarily resident in the country where the absent member resides. Such a substitute shall have the right to speak and **to participate in decision-making.** If a member, or his or her substitute, is absent without excuse for two consecutive meetings, the position shall be declared vacant, and the central committee shall fill the vacancy according to the provisions of article V.2.b.3 of the constitution.

d) Moderators and vice-moderators of committees, commissions and boards who are not members of the central committee may attend meetings of the central committee and shall have the right to speak but **not to participate in decision-making.**

e) Advisers for the central committee may be appointed by the executive committee after consultation with the churches of which they are members. They shall have the right to speak but not to participate in decision-making.

f) Members of the staff of the World Council appointed by the central committee as specified under rule XII.3. shall have the right to attend the sessions of the central committee unless on any occasion the central committee shall otherwise determine. When present they shall have the right to speak but **not to participate in decision-making.**

*4. Functions*

In exercising the powers set forth in the constitution the central committee shall have the following specific functions:

have the following specific functions:

a) In the conduct of its business, the Central Committee shall elect the following committees:

- 1) Programme Committee (a standing committee);
- 2) Finance Committee (a standing committee);
- 3) Nominations Committee (appointed at each meeting);

a) In the conduct of its business, the central committee shall elect the following committees:

1. **nominations committee;**
2. **executive committee;**
- permanent committee on consensus and collaboration;**

**Proposed action:**

*The Ninth Assembly confirms the amended Rule VI of the Rules of the World Council of Churches.*

## 7. RULE VII OF THE WCC RULES

When amending Rule VI, the Central Committee decided for reasons of clarity to establish the paragraph on Nominations as a new Rule VII. The new Rule VII was approved by the Central Committee in February 2005. It is subject to confirmation by the Ninth Assembly.

### *Old*

#### V. Central Committee

##### 3. *Nominations Committee of the Central Committee*

a) The Central Committee shall elect a Nominations Committee which shall:

- 1) nominate persons from among the members of the Central Committee for the offices of Moderator and Vice-Moderator or Vice-Moderators of the Central Committee;
- 2) nominate a person for the office of President to fill the unexpired term should a vacancy occur in the Presidium between Assemblies;
- 3) nominate members of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee;
- 4) nominate members of committees, commissions and boards and where appropriate their Moderators;
- 5) make recommendations regarding the election of persons proposed for staff positions under Rule IX.3.

In making nominations as provided for by (1) to (4) above the Nominations Committee of the Central Committee shall have regard to principles set out in Rule III.4.(c) and, in applying principles 2, 3 and 4 to the nomination of members of committees, commissions and boards, shall consider the representative character of the combined

### *Amended*

#### VII. Nominations committee of the central committee

1. **In its first meeting during or immediately after the assembly,** the central committee shall elect a nominations committee which shall:

- a) nominate persons from among the members of the central committee for the offices of moderator and vice-moderator or vice-moderators of the central committee;
- b) nominate members of the executive committee of the central committee;
- c) nominate a person for the office of president to fill the unexpired term should a vacancy occur in the presidium between assemblies;
- d) nominate members of committees, commissions and boards and where appropriate their moderators;
- e) make recommendations regarding the election of persons proposed for staff positions under rule XII.3.

In making nominations as provided for by (a) and (b) to (d) above, the nominations committee shall have regard to principles set out in rule IV.4.c and, in applying principles (2), (3) and (4) to the nomination of members of committees, commissions and boards, shall consider the representative character of the combined membership

membership of all such committees. Any member of the Central Committee may make additional nominations, provided that each such nominee shall be proposed in opposition to a particular nominee of the Nominations Committee.

- b) Election shall be by ballot unless the Committee shall otherwise determine.

of all such committees. Any member of the central committee may make additional nominations, provided that each such nominee shall be proposed in opposition to a particular nominee of the nominations committee.

**2. In between meetings of the central committee, the executive committee shall act as the nominations committee of the central committee.**

3. Election shall be by ballot unless the committee shall otherwise determine.

**Proposed action:** *The Ninth Assembly confirms the amended Rule VII of the Rules of the World Council of Churches.*

## 8. RULE XXI OF THE WCC RULES

The decision of the Central Committee to adopt the consensus method of decision-making, and the new numbering of the Rules have consequences for Rule XXI of the Rules. The amended Rule XXI was approved by the Central Committee in February 2005. It is subject to confirmation by the Ninth Assembly.

### *Old*

#### **XVII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Rules may be moved at any session of the Assembly or at any session of the Central Committee by any member and may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, except that no alteration in Rules I, V and XVII shall come into effect until it has been confirmed by the Assembly. Notice of a proposal to make any such amendment shall be given in writing at least twenty-four hours before the session of the Assembly or Central Committee at which it is to be moved.

### *Amended*

#### **XXI. Amendments**

Amendments to these rules may be proposed at any session of the assembly or at any session of the central committee by any member and may be **decided according to consensus or voting procedures. If decided according to voting procedures, then any proposed change must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present to be adopted.** No alteration in rules I, VI, **VII** and XXI shall come into effect until it has been confirmed by the assembly. Notice of a proposal to make any amendment shall be given in writing at least twenty-four hours before the session of the assembly or central committee at which it is to be considered.

**Proposed action:** *The Ninth Assembly confirms the amended Rule XXI of the Rules of the World Council of Churches.*