



Reaching Consent

Foundational Principles (Scriptural Grounding)

1. Common Consent

“All things shall be done by common consent in the church.”

— Doctrine and Covenants 26:2

2. Voice of the People

“Nevertheless, the voice of the people desiring it, it shall be done.”

— Mosiah 29:26

3. Each Person Speaks in Turn

“That every man might speak in the name of God the Lord.”

— Doctrine and Covenants 1:20

4. Agency Must Be Preserved

“It is not meet that I should command in all things.”

— Doctrine and Covenants 58:26

These principles require voice before vote, consent over coercion, and patience over pressure.

Roles: Servant and Record Keeper

- Servant acts as a **facilitator**, not a decider
- Ensures **every voice is heard**
- Keeps order and protects agency

- Does **not** advocate for outcomes
- Records all votes and final decision

“The weak things of the world shall come forth... that man should not counsel his fellow man.”

- Doctrine and Covenants 1:19–20

Step 1: Voice (Hearing Before Deciding)

- Servant invites each in turn to speak
- No cross-room debate
- No interruptions
- Multiple rounds if needed
- Members can move comment to last
- Responses are limited to:
 - *New Ideas*
 - *Support for Ideas*
 - *Concern*
 - *Reservation*

This stage is **not persuasion or a vote**. It is **witnessing**.

Step 2: Discernment of Readiness

After voices are heard through many rounds if needed on a subject, servant listens for:

- Broad spiritual alignment
- Absence of unresolved objections
- A sense of peace rather than pressure
- When appropriate, the servant will ask: “Do we have a move to consent?”

Step 3: Motion and Second

- One person may say “**I move to consent**”
- A second must say “**I second the motion**”
- No argument is made at this stage

This signals readiness to test unity, not force it.

Step 4: Vote (Consent, Not Majority)

The vote is **unanimous only**. Each person may:

- Consent
- Withhold consent (justification not required)

“By the voice of the people... every thing may be done.” - Mosiah 29:26

If Unanimous Consent Is NOT Reached

- The idea is **put to sleep** by default
- It is **not rejected**
- It may be revisited later without penalty or stigma, but hopefully revised.
- This protects agency and prevents false unity with increased agreement.

Final Requirement (Essential Safeguard)

No Decision May Be Rushed. If time, pressure, fear, or urgency are driving the process, the discussion must pause and backtrack on what is agreed.

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

— Psalm 46:10 (affirmed in LDS usage)

Zion is built by **light and consent**, not speed.

Summary

- **Voice precedes vote**
- **Every person is heard**
- **Consent must be unanimous**
- **No outcome is forced**
- **Ideas may rest without rejection**
- **Agency is preserved**

This is the order of a gathered people.

