EXAMINING THE RULES OF CONSENSUS FROM THE CANONICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Summary/Abstract: The rules of consensus posed problems for the Holy and Great Council both prior to the council and during. This paper explores some of these reasons and examines the canonical witness for a clearer understanding of consensus within the canonical tradition. The paper concludes with a call for greater conciliar activity in order to foster a more robust culture of consensus within the Orthodox Church.
Consensus decision-making is a group decision-making process in which group members develop, and agree to support a decision in the best interest of the whole group or common goal. Consensus may be defined professionally as an acceptable resolution, one that can be supported, even if not the “favourite” of each individual. It has its origin in the Latin word consensus (agreement), which is from consentiō meaning literally feel together. It is used to describe both the decision and the process of