

The Rule of St. Benedict

*“Whenever any important business has
to be done in the monastery,
let the abbot call together
the whole community
and state the matter
to be acted upon.*

*Then, having heard the brethren’s advice,
let him turn the matter over in his own mind
and do when he shall judge to be most expedient.*

*The reason we have said that all should be called
for counsel
is that the Lord often reveals to the younger
what is best.*

*Let the brethren give their advice
with all the deference required by humility,
and not presume stubbornly to
defend their opinions;
but let the decision rather depend on
the Abbot’s judgment,
and all submit to whatever he shall decide
for their welfare.*

*However, just as it is proper
for the disciples to obey their master,
so also it is his function
to dispose of all things with prudence and justice.”**

* (St. Benedict, 2009. The Rule of St. Benedict. Edition. Saint Benedict Press, 1948, 2001. ISBN: 1935302396)