The first condition for successful group functioning, love and unity, needs to have been met. This can always be improved, but if it is not sufficiently met or impediment to functioning. The second condition/obligation for successful functioning is turning to a higher power and asking for aid. Both of these requirements can be primarily met outside meeting times, but the meetings should reinforce and deepen them.

You can think of these like a special instrument called a "luta" that calls forth the group's powers, like a snake charmer uses the flute to call forth the snake: L - love, U - unity, T - turn, and A - ask.

e requisites for those who take counsel together are:

- Purity - of motive,
- Patience - and long suffering in difficulties,
- Radiance - of spirit,
- Attraction - to a higher purpose or power,
- Humility - and lowliness,
- Detachment - from all selfish concerns,
- Servitude - to humanity.

When these during consultation, you might think of them as (P2RAHDS) prods, prayeds or parades for calling forth victory.

The procedures for consultation are:

- Moderation
- Courtesy
- Care
- Devotion
- Dignity

They can be thought of as the Master's CDs (MC2D2). These are His compact disks for expressing our views. Each one contains a wealth of guidance and when a member of the group is expressing a view, they should be using (playing) at least one of them. Remember, it is music from the Master, and playing conditions (LUTA) on a system that meets all the requisites (P2RAHDS) will produce music that will move the world.

For some practical suggestions for making decisions. To the degree the above conditions and requisites have been met, the consultation should flow and efficiently. The three steps in making a decision are:

Understanding - define the problem, ascertain the facts, determine the relevant principles
Deciding - consult using the given guidance, try to arrive at a consensus decision
Executing—determine who, when and how to carry out; everyone support the decision

Think of an inspiring acronym to remember with these steps. Even memorable ones like UDEr (small r standing for reviewing the steps to see if carried out and right) lack inspiring metaphorical meaning (you have to know how to use the udder to get the milk?) or elegance. The order of the steps, otherwise we might use DUE - Decide, Understand, and Execute. (I think some people may actually use this method.)

Mnemonic approaches for remembering these steps are:

Understanding deciding is executing (exciting).
I understand you decided to execute (me).
You should understand what you are deciding before you execute (your decision)

The members and the chair might organize the consultation by determining if the steps have been met:

Understanding - Does everyone understand the problem? What are the facts? What spiritual and administrative principles apply?
Deciding - Is there consensus about what to do? Have we consulted enough to make a decision?
Executing - Who will carry out the decision? How will we know it is done? When should it be done? How will it be reported when it is done?

Some points that might make things run more smoothly and efficiently. If everyone seems to understand the problem and be agreeable on what needs to be labor the points, especially if it is not an important concern--Should the group cookies be stars or circles? If stars, should they be red and/or green? Your place or mine?

He has made the points sufficiently clear for deciding, there is no need to repeat or elaborate on them. The group members do not need to know if you know about a topic in order to make a good and correct decision. Your experiences with this topic over your lifetime and your intricate may be interesting, even illuminating, but not necessary for the proper carrying out of business. Before you say something ask yourself: Has t been said (albeit less eloquently than you might say it) and does it need to be said (is it information that might reasonably change the decision)? Some balance must be found between too much and too little talk (moderation, from MC2D2). Remember, you can always revisit a decision. If you didn't say g and a decision is made that you think is wrong, you can always present your points then.

Ember that once a decision has been made it is supported by everyone. A bad decision can be corrected; estrangement is not so easy to correct. I opinion unless it might change the decision. If you assume consensus unless you hear otherwise, it may facilitate consultation. The chair might this by asking, "Is there consensus? Does anyone disagree?" and if no one indicates concern, then it is considered a decision of the Assembly. Have concerns or second thoughts later, then they should feel free to express them. True consultation is a spiritual conference and energizing, not merely conversation.

Techniques that may be helpful are:

Have members raise hands or otherwise indicate and be recognized by the chair. The chair could then say first x, then w, then z. Chair disallow input not on the topic. (This should be understood as the chair's responsibility so that no feelings are hurt.) In deciding a question, the chair can ask "Does anyone disagree?" or "Does everyone agree?" after stating the decision. If no one responds, it is a consensus decision. If this is understood by everyone, then decision-making is facilitated and no one is left out. Say prayers/affirmations silently while others are talking. Say as little as possible, if more needs to be said later, you can always do so. Don't ramble or bring in unnecessary information. Wait to see if someone will say what you were going to say and then speak only if it has been said and needs to be said. Limit yourself. Think about how you could improve the consultation, instead about what you want to say on the matters being consulted about. Go over in your mind what requisites or conditions you need to develop and practice them during the consultation. Remember the purpose of the group. Don't sacrifice the larger purposes for smaller ones.

It sounds like a good place to stop. "Does anyone disagree?"