

Written Request of a Decision of Law
Annual Conference 2021

My name is Tim Russell and I serve as one of the pastors at Horne Memorial Church in Clayton. I wish to request a bishop's ruling of law on the approval of the standing rules for this year's annual conference.

My question is, "Can the annual conference approve standing rules prior to the annual conference actually being in session?"

We were sent the standing rules by email and told we had to approve them with an up or down vote by May 14, 2021. The annual conference was not even in session then. The session of the 2021 annual conference did not begin until June 17.

Furthermore, the mechanism for approving the standing rules this year did not provide any opportunity to debate, amend, or discuss the standing rules. It is clear that the 2020 standing rules applied only to the 2020 annual conference. Therefore, until the annual conference, while properly in session, approves new standing rules, I believe the 2019 rules still apply and they do not give the ability to approve rules between sessions of annual conference.

I do not believe the standing rules have properly been presented to the annual conference and therefore have not been properly approved. I would like to request a bishop's ruling on that. Thank you.