

Standing Rules Update Addendum

Updated June 13, 2022

Introduction

Following the publication of the Revised Standing Rules in the PreConference Book/Journal Vol. I, the Standing Rules Working Group received input and recommendations from Annual Conference members in several areas as described in this document. Following consultation with those who submitted that feedback, the Working Group is submitting an updated recommendation for consideration by the Conference.

The changes described below have been incorporated into the final text and annotated markup which are available at www.umcna.org/standingrules. **The final text including these changes will be presented for consideration during the Annual Conference session as a revised report from the Working Group.**

The Working Group expresses its thanks to Rev. Toby Chastain who offered significant input in the process of refining these recommendations.

Summary of Changes and Recommendations

The recommendations received from Annual Conference members that have been incorporated into the recommended Revised Standing Rules are as follows:

Format and Distribution of Reports and Other Business

The Revised Standing Rules have been updated to create additional flexibility in the format and distribution method of reports and other business being presented for consideration by the Annual Conference. As originally proposed, many reports were required to be included in the PreConference Book/Journal Vol. I for consideration. However, due to publication deadlines as well as increasing comfort among Conference members with receiving business electronically, in recent years an increasing number of reports have been distributed via other channels such as email or the Conference website. While reports will still be included in the PreConference Book/Journal Vol. I, this change allows for additional flexibility while standardizing the process for handling reports regardless of how they are originally submitted to the Conference.

Deadlines Related to Petitions and Resolutions

Similar to the above, based on input received from members of the Conference, the Revised Standing Rules have been updated to set the deadline for petitions and resolutions as 60 days before the start of Annual Conference (instead of February 1), and requires that motions to amend be submitted within 15 days of publication. These changes allow for additional time for petitions and resolutions to be submitted while still allowing for proper vetting as required by the Standing Rules.

Limits on Speaking

While a change was not made related to limits on speaking as found in item 2(d) of the Rules of Debate (Appendix A), the Working Group received questions related to the 5-time limit on speaking and would like to provide some clarification around this change.

First, this rule is only applicable to the number of speeches a member makes for or against items during debate, and does not limit the ability of members to make motions, ask questions, raise points of order, or otherwise engage in the proceedings of the Conference. The intent of this rule is not to limit the ability of any individual to participate in the business of the Conference, but rather to create a more equitable process where all members are able to do so under our other rules that limit the number of speeches for and against an item. While the presiding Bishop has the prerogative to call on members in order to hear from a diversity of voices on matters before the Conference, this rule creates additional transparency and clarity for members who wish to speak.

Additionally, this type of rule is commonly found in other organizational rules, including those of the General Conference. As part of its work, the Working Group considered the rules of similar organizations in order to identify best practices, and this rule arose out of that work.

Specific Changes

Excluding minor typographical changes, the following specific changes have been made to the Revised Standing Rules as printed on pages 132-146 in the PreConference Book/Journal Vol. 1. These changes have been incorporated into the final text available at www.umcna.org/standingrules, and the updated final text is what will be presented for consideration by the Conference.

1.5 Voting at Annual Conference

c. **Voting Procedures.** Voting procedures shall be developed by the Annual Conference Executive Planning Team and ~~described in the PreConference Book/Journal Volume I or the report of the Annual Conference Executive Planning Team~~ published prior to Annual Conference.

1.6 Procedures, Petitions, and Resolutions

a. **Deadline for Petitions and Resolutions.** Petitions and resolutions to be presented to the Annual Conference must be received by the Conference Secretary no later than ~~February 1~~ 60 calendar days preceding the Annual Conference to which it is submitted unless this deadline is extended by the Annual Conference Secretary.

b. **Petitions and Resolutions Approved by Conference Agencies.** Petitions and Resolutions approved by agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, teams or other conference entities or agencies shall be ~~included in the PreConference Book/Journal Volume 1~~ published prior to Annual Conference.

h. **Motions to Amend.** All motions to amend any resolution or petition, including motions to amend by substitution, shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary within ~~30~~ 15 days of the publication of such petition or resolution ~~in the PreConference Book/Journal Volume I or the conference website.~~ Such motions shall be handled in accordance with the procedures set out in the paragraphs (1.6 c-f) above.

1.7 Reports

b. **Consent Agenda.** In order to expedite the business of the Annual Conference, the Consent Agenda Committee, composed of the Conference Secretary and the Director of Connectional Ministries, in consultation with organizations or individuals presenting reports, recommendations, petitions or resolutions, may ~~present in the present~~ PreConference Book/Journal Volume 1 a ~~written~~ list of items which shall be considered as adopted by consent of the Annual Conference unless they are removed from this list at a time set aside for this purpose during the second business session of the Conference, unless the Conference only includes a single business session in which case the Consent Agenda may be adopted during that session.

c. **Reports Not Contained in the PreConference Book/Journal Volume I Published Prior to Conference.** All reports not ~~contained in the published PreConference Book/Journal Volume I~~ shall be typewritten and presented in duplicate published prior to Conference shall be presented as

directed by the Conference Secretary and are placed on the Conference agenda. The reports (except that of the Annual Conference Executive Planning Team) lie on the Conference Secretary's desk at least one business session before being acted upon by the Conference.

1.9 PreConference Meetings

Each year the District Superintendent and District Lay Leader may convene a meeting of all Annual Conference Members and Reserves within the District prior to the Annual Conference session ~~after the PreConference Book/Journal Volume I is in the hands of the members~~ for the purpose of considering proposals and programs which are to be presented to the Annual Conference.

1.13 Change or Amendment of Rules

Proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of the North Alabama Conference shall be published ~~in the PreConference Book/Journal Volume I~~ prior to Annual Conference and be ratified by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting. Unless otherwise specified, changes and amendments shall be effective at the adjournment of the Annual Conference session during which they are ratified.

Appendix A: Rules of Debate

5. **Alteration of Motions.** When a motion is made and seconded or a resolution is moved and seconded; it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Annual Conference and may not be altered except by the action of the Annual Conference.

- a. No motion to amend or to amend by substitution may be made to published resolutions or petitions ~~appearing in the PreConference Book/Journal Volume I~~ unless such motion has been previously submitted in accordance with ~~§2.5~~ 1.6.
- b. ~~No motions to amend by substitution shall be permitted with respect to petitions and resolutions that do not appear in the PreConference Book/Journal Volume I.~~ No motions to amend by substitution shall be permitted to petitions and resolutions that have not been submitted in accordance with §1.6 of the Standing Rules.