

# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## MEMORANDUM NO. 1495

[Docket No. 0524-2]

IN RE: Petition for Declaratory Decision from the Council of Bishops on the Meaning, Application, and Effect of ¶¶ 55 and 2602.1 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

On April 10, 2024, the Council of Bishops submitted to the Judicial Council a Petition for Declaratory Decision with the following questions:

- (a) Does the sentence “A member’s term of office shall be eight years” in ¶ 2602.1 mean that a person elected to the Judicial Council at the 2016 General Conference has served one eight-year term and must stand for re-election at the 2020 General Conference to be held in 2024 if the person desires to continue to serve on the Judicial Council?
- (b) Does ¶ 55 of the Discipline give the General Conference authority to enact legislation to modify ¶ 2602.1 and determine whether a person elected to the Judicial Council at the 2016 General Conference has served one eight-year term and must stand for re-election at the 2020 General Conference to be held in 2024?

### DIGEST

The Judicial Council declines jurisdiction. The Constitution provides in ¶ 55: “There shall be a Judicial Council. The **General Conference** shall determine the number and qualifications of its members, their terms of office, and the method of election and the filling of vacancies.” [emphasis added]

April 22, 2024