



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONSEIL JUDICIAIRE DE L'EGLISE METHODISTE UNIE
RECHTSHOF DER EVANGELISCH-METHODISTISCHEN KIRCHE
CONSELHO JUDICIAL DA IGREJA METODISTA UNIDA
CONSEJO DE LA JUDICATURA DE LA IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA



Petition for Declaratory Decision

This form is to be used by the Secretary of the body authorized to petition the Judicial Council for a ruling in the nature of a declaratory decision as to the constitutionality, meaning, application, or effect of (please check one):

- The Book of Discipline 2016* or any portion thereof (§ 2610.1)
- any act or legislation of a General Conference (§ 2610.1)
- any proposed legislation (§ 2609.2)

Name of body authorized to make a Petition (§ 2610.2): Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Date of session: 07/11/2024 (month/day/year) Location: Pittsburgh, PA

Name of Secretary: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Salsgiver

Address: 303 Mulberry Drive City: Mechanicsburg

State/Province: PA ZIP/Postal Code 17050 Country: USA

Phone: 717/766-7871 Fax: _____ E-mail: tsalsgiver@susumc.org

To be reviewed (indicate paragraph number, title of legislation and/or act where applicable):

Book of Discipline: JCD # 696, par. 241, 242, 443.1(d), 453.2

Legislation: _____

Act of General Conference: _____

Signature:  Digitally signed by Thomas L. Salsgiver
Date: 2024.07.17 11:58:13 -04'00'

Date: 07/17/2024

Secretary of the Conference/Body

(month/day/year)

The following must be attached:

- Text of the written Petition for Declaratory Decision as originally presented
- Minutes of proceedings
- List of names and addresses of interested parties, including eu mail
- Other relevant materials (e.g. conference rules, resolutions, policies, reports)

➤ Send electronic copy of this form and all materials in PDF and Microsoft Word format to: **secretary@umcjudicialcouncil.org**

➤ Mail thirteen (13) sets of hard copies to:

**UMC Judicial Council, c/o LaNella Smith, Assistant to the J.C. Secretary,
1215 Shady Lane, Durham, NC 27712**

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL SESSION
JULY 7 – 12, 2024**

Petition for Declaratory Decision #2

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Plenary 6:

Bishop Hector Burgos-Nunez presiding, Bishop John Schol assisting along with Bishop Jane Middleton.

Declaratory Decision moved by Robin Hynicka (EPA)

“May an annual conference create and adopt a rule to determine the eligibility of a delegate to jurisdiction and/or general conference who is actively serving and/or providing leadership in a denomination not in full communion with The United Methodist Church?” Vote: 91 YES; 48 NO.

PLENARY 6
NORTHEASTERN JURISDICITON
MINUTES
JULY 11, 2024

Call to Order

Bishop Hector A. Burgos-Nunez called the plenary to order. He was assisted by Bishop John Schol and Bishop Jane Middleton.

Bishop Burgos-Nunez indicated that the next order of business will be to consider Resolution #3 calling on the annual conferences of the NEJ to require the use of United Methodist resources when readmitting disaffiliated churches into the United Methodist Church. This resolution encourages our Annual Conferences to use formal United Methodist resources when admitting congregations that have disaffiliated from The United Methodist Church to ensure they understand the commitments of being United Methodist.

Before being able to discuss Resolution #3, Bishop recognizes Robin Hynicka, Clergy Delegate from Eastern PA. He is requesting a declaratory decision on the following question:

“May an annual conference create an adopt a rule to determine the eligibility of a delegate to jurisdictional and/or general conference who is actively serving and/or providing leadership in a denomination not in full communion with the United Methodist Church.”

Bishop indicated the declaratory decision is in order.

Creed Progue, lay delegate from Greater New Jersey ask a question about clarification on the current Book of Discipline passed at General Conference regarding the issue that Robin Hynicka raised in his declaratory decision? Bishop indicated that the chair does not have access to the information that Mr. Progue was asking and it would be impossible to get the information.

Bishop asked Mr. Hynicka to read again his declaratory decision so all may hear what the body is voting on. Bishop indicated that this is not debatable and the body will move directly into a vote.

VOTE: YES – 91; NO – 48.

It will be forwarded to the Judicial Council.

Bishop recognized Elizabeth Santos Fisher, lay, EPA for a point of order. She referenced ¶251.2 of The Discipline regarding qualifications listed in ¶127 and ask if it was legal to pass a resolution regarding qualifications for disbaring the election of someone who is in good standing. The Bishop ruled that the body has not done that and it is a moot question and it will not be considered.

Bishop announced that the body is now at a hard stop and must recess for lunch. Bishop Burgos Nunez recognized Katie Reimer, lay delegate New York for a moment of personal privilege to speak about the Thursday in Black which is a global movement led by the World Council of Churches.

Bishop indicated that after lunch delegates would gather in their new Episcopal areas. He called on Judi Kenaston to give instructions. It is hoped that each area will talk about a vision for their area in the future, what needs to happen and secondly, the COE would like your input in terms of a name for the Episcopal area.

The Conference Secretary gave the room locations for each Episcopal area.

The Episcopal areas will meet at 1:15 and the chair reminded the body that we will resume as a total body at 2:40 pm.

INTERESTED PARTIES

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling's Decision of Law In Response to a Request for Rulings of Law Presented by the Members of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy During the 2024 Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church

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