

1024-3 Removal of Par. 2549 Disaffiliation Process

Motion that the Kentucky Annual Conference request a Declaratory Decision on the expiration of ¶ 2553 and the action of the General Conference to remove that Paragraph from the *Discipline*, can our Conference utilize ¶ 2549 or some other provision of the *Discipline* as a pathway for the exit of local churches from The United Methodist Church?



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): Kentucky Annual Conference
 Date of session: 06/12/2024 (month/day/year) Location: Covington, Ky
 Name of Secretary: Darren Brandon
 Address: 7400 Floydsburg Road City: Crestwood
 State/Province: Kentucky ZIP/Postal Code 40014 Country: USA
 Phone: 502-425-3884 Fax: _____ E-mail: dbrandon@kyumc.org

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

Book of Discipline: Paragraph 2549
 Legislation: _____
 Act of General Conference: Removal of 2553 Disaffiliation Process

Signature: Darren Brandon Digitally signed by Darren Brandon
Date: 2024.06.24 14:27:46 -04'00'

Date: 0624/24
(month/day/year)

Secretary of the Conference/Body

The following must be attached:

- o Text of the written Petition for Declaratory Decision as originally presented
- o Minutes of proceedings
- o List of names and addresses of interested parties, including eu mail
- o 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**

WEDNESDAY, June 12, 2024
MORNING SESSION

PLENARY CALL TO ORDER: The Bishop welcomed members back to the KAC and called on Lesley Williams for a centering moment.

CENTERING MOMENT: Lesley Williams read two biblical scriptures Colossians 3:12-17 and Matthew 6:25-33.

JOURNAL COMMITTEE REPORT: Sylvia Baker-Noren shared the following motion: “The Conference Journal Committee has reviewed and found the minutes from June 11, 2024 to be in order. Therefore, I move for the adoption of the minutes and request the continued reviewed of today’s proceedings by the conference Journal Committee.

MONITORING: Jan Brown-Thompson reinforced the objectives of the monitoring process and shared statistics on participation and representation of underrepresented groups. This data will be used to improve the KAC inclusive decision-making process moving forward. Brown-Thompson shared information about James Morris Lawson, a former African American Methodist missionary and activist who recently died.

COURTESIES: Dale Carden stated that there were no courtesies to share.

INTRODUCTION OF VIDEO: John Gallaher introduced the video, Common Good, which is a joint effort of the local church sharing space with a non-profit organization to provide outreach and ministry to underserved communities in the Lexington area.

VIDEO: COMMON GOOD

SECOND READING OF NOMINATIONS REPORT: Tina Patterson reminded members where to find the report and gave the following changes:

Board of Trustees:

Remove: Anna Laws

Add: Joe Davis

KY United Methodist Children’s Home

Add:

Class 2024: Bonnie Baker*, Susan Jinnett-Sack, Doug Stilwell & Jean Hawxhurst

Class 2025: Karla Fullwood, Ladonna Hunton, Esther Jadhav, Greg Branstetter*

Josephine Rudy Scholarship Committee

Add: Chair, Janet Carden, Lee Obenchain, Jo Logan, Steven Sutton, Betty Boggess, Karla Fullwood, Debbie Sides, Sarah-Kate Cox, Jim Coleman, Cindy Green, & Courtney Garrett

Board of Ordained Ministry

Add: Craig Tuck (chair); Courtney Garrett (Assistant Director of Ministerial Services)

Class 2026: Gary Gibson, Guy Goodner, John Minton, Sean Ryan
Class of 2027: Jim Fugitte, Pamela Stephens

Ex Officio

Bishop Fairley, Jay Smith, Shannon Boaz
*non United Methodist

COSROW

Add: Ami Jo Hutchinson

Religion & Race

Add: Jenna Dye Wheelock

Aldersgate Camp Committee

Add: Will Decker, Joe White

Young Adult Leadership Team

Add: Lauren Burke

Bishop's Day with Confirmands

Remove: Derek Robinette

Journal Committee

Add: Sylvia Baker-Noren

The report was approved.

MOTION: Todd Nelson made the following motion: "We encourage the Bishop and the cabinet of the KY Annual Conference to explore The Book of Discipline paragraph 2549 as a potential means for facilitating a fair and just pathway for KAC Churches to exit the UMC."

The motion passed (Yes – 52.7% No – 47.3%)

VIDEO: AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Equitable Compensation

Add: Staff-Assistant Director of Ministerial Services, Courtney Garrett

Administrative Review Committee

Add: Staff-Assistant Director of Ministerial Services, Courtney Garrett

Committee on Investigation

Add: Staff-Assistant Director of Ministerial Services, Courtney Garrett

Conference Relations Committee

Add: Under staff: Assistant Director of Ministerial Services, Courtney Garrett

Western KY University Wesley Foundation

Chair of 2025: Tim Witthuhn* (class of 2026)

Class 2025: John Yonts, Leslie Smith

Class 2026: Amy DeCesare*

Class 2027: Joshua Smith

*Denotes United Methodist

MOTION: Eric Bryant made the following motion: “With the expiration of paragraph 2553 and the action of the General Conference to remove that paragraph from the Discipline, can our Conference utilize paragraph 2549 or some other provision of the Discipline as a pathway for the exit of local churches from the United Methodist Church?”

The motion passed (Yes – 76.6% No – 23.4%

VIDEO: COSROW & RELIGION AND RACE

MOTION: John Maynard made the following motion: “ I move that the Kentucky Annual Conference encourage our churches to acknowledge the decisions made by the General Conference including but not limited to the removal of paragraph 2553, regionalization, and the two definitions of marriage in hopes that we can accept and embrace our LGBTQIA+ siblings as a part of our church family.

The motion passed (Yes -71.4% No – 28.6%

MOTION: Amy Chapman made the following motion: “I move that the KAC implement an associate conference lay leader who serves in the same capacity as the associate district lay leader as outlined in in Paragraph 660 of the Book of Discipline.”

The motion passed. Yes – 89.9% No – 10.1%

MISSION OFFERING: The Bishop shared the current amount raised-\$14,119.25.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE: The Bishop shared an update and the Heartland District is ahead in fund raising with the amount of \$130.30.

SECOND READING OF THE BUDGET: Kim Keller, chair of CF&A and David Garvin, Conference Treasurer, gave the following highlights:

- Proposed total budget is 4.2 million for 2025
- Our Mission Covenant (OMC) remains at 10%
- Summary of total revenue sources include OMC (2.9 million); other revenue (~610K); & disaffiliation funds (700K)
- Summary of expenses includes GCFA (~981K); ministry areas (~1.4 million); administrative expenses (~1.8)
- Shared opportunities for CFA Ministry Grants in the amount of \$500.00 centered around stewardship, technology, and leadership development
- Shared the deadlines to apply for grants (June 30 and September 30, 2024)
- Sites were shared to access resources and grant opportunities (www.kyumc.org) along with a QR code

David Garvin recognized Keller for her outstanding 8 years of service as chair of CF&A and also recognized the Owensboro District for having the most churches who paid 100% of their apportionments.

MOTION: Jessica Neely made the following motion: “I make a motion that we amend the proposed budget to continue the current funding level of campus ministry and higher education.” The Bishop informed the body and Neely that Standing Rule 9 would prohibit the motion from being acted upon. The KAC voted on the Poore Motion (see below) that allowed the body to progress with the Neely motion.

The motion passed.

MOTION: Teddy Poore made a motion to aid in addressing the Neely Motion being acted upon during this KAC session. The motion stated, “Suspend the standing rule #9 to vote on amendment.” Standing rule 9 states, “At any plenary session, an original motion that has a potential impact on the Conference budget must be referred to CFA to investigate and report the budgetary impact of the proposed action before a vote is taken on the motion.”

The motion passed.

MOTION: Following a lengthy discussion, Jay Smith made the following motion, “I move that Campus Ministry be given consideration Missions Night and Mission Night offering at the 2025 KAC.” **This motion passed.**

The **budget was approved** with the amendment made by the Neely Motion.

PRAYER: The Bishop prayed for the world, USA, and conference along with the acknowledgement of global warfare and separation.

KY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025: Bishop Fairley shared the 2025 location for KAC will be KY Wesleyan College from June 9-11, 2025.

RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS: Jim Coleman presented four resolutions that the committee recommended a vote of concurrence for each.

Resolution 1): Concerning the War in Gaza and the West Bank

Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Margaret Coleman that dismissed this resolution. The Coleman motion stated, “Move to not vote for or against this motion.” **This motion passed.**

Resolution was not voted on and became inactive due to the Coleman motion.

MOTION: Tess Welch made the following motion: “I move to suspend the rules to one speech for and against. **This motion passed.**”

Resolution 2): A Resolution to Prioritize Clergy Well-Being in the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

The KAC voted for concurrence with this resolution.

Resolution 3): Clarity for Those with Traditionalist Views Who are Interested in Ordained Ministry

MOTION: Sylvia Baker-Noren made the following motion: “I move to substitute the Neely “Clarity” resolution (listed above) with the Baker-Noren “Clarity” Resolution.”

The Baker-Noren Resolution reads:

Whereas the actions of the recent General Conference have prompted both shouts of joy and shouts of lament from faithful United Methodists in Kentucky, and

Whereas Paul admonishes the church that each member of the body of Christ is indispensable, saying, “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’” (1 Corinthians 12:21), and

Whereas the church’s unity is neither in our theological convictions or our theological opinions but in the unity of the Father and the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus prayed for us, that we may all be one, saying, “As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21), and

Whereas “Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another” (United Methodist Service of Word and Table), and

Whereas “God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:36), but rather God calls whom God will call,

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Kentucky Conference seeks to be a place where traditionalists and progressives sit at the same table, which is the table of Christ, moderates, and that the Kentucky Conference encourages any and all who discern a call into ministry in The United Methodist Church to pursue ordination in the Kentucky Conference.

Following a lengthy discussion, **the Brown-Noren Motion failed.**

The KAC voted to concur with the Resolutions & Petition Committee on this resolution.

Resolution 4): Clarity for Those Interested in Ordained Ministry

MOTION: John Maynard made the following motion, “I move that the resolution be amended to name LGBTQ+ candidates in this resolution by name in the last paragraph to remove, “certain persons formerly excluded” and add “LGBTQ+ persons formerly excluded.”

Following a lengthy discussion, **the Maynard motion failed.**

The KAC voted to concur with the Resolutions & Petition Committee on this resolution.

CLOSING OF CHURCHES AND CHANGE IN CHARGE LINES: Brad Smart, Dean of the Cabinet reported the church closures and changes in charge lines.

Mt. Pleasant (Ohio County) (Owensboro)-5/1/2023

Myers Chapel (Pennyrile)- 5/22/2023

Groves Chapel (Pennyrile)-5/24/2023

Millers Chapel (Bluegrass)-6/11/2023

Drury's Chapel (Northern Kentucky)-6/14/2023

Beech Valley (Owensboro)- 8/27/2023

Garrett Chapel (Kentucky East) -4/22/2024

Cumberland (South East) -12/4/2023

Grace (Heartland)

Harvieland (Bluegrass)

The church closures were approved.

Change of Charge Lines (For information only)

Bluegrass District:

-Midway and Mt. Gilead become the Midway/Mt. Gilead charge.

-Campbellsburg/Sulpher charge to become two station churches.

Kentucky East:

-Argilite and Greenup First to merge and become Greenup First.

-Paintsville First/Paintsville Mayo to become 2 station churches.

-Prestonburg First and Paintsville Mayo will become the Prestonburg First/Paintsville Mayo charge.

Pennyrile:

-Central City, Shaver's Chapel, and Morgantown (Owensboro District) to become the Central City/Shaver's Chapel/Morgantown charge

-Ledbetter and Smithland will merge to become Smithland UMC.

Southeast Kentucky:

-Benham/Cumberland will become Benham UMC. Cumberland UMC closed.

COURTESIES: The Bishop shared that Tanner White, who was newly ordained in the Florida Annual Conference, died unexpectedly leaving behind a wife and two children. The Bishop asked the conference to lift this family up in prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bishop thanked and acknowledged the following individuals for their efforts and contributions to the KAC.

GNTV & Spencer

Worship & Design Team: Chris Basil & Thom Brown co-chairs

Gary & Jennifer Graves

Office Staff: Kelly McDonald, Cathy Bruce, Connie Offutt, Jill Starkey, Darren Brandon, Kevin Burney, Lesley Williams, Courtney Garrett, Alan Wild, David Garvin

Secretaries (William Herdon, Tukea Talbert, & Elizabeth Smith

Jessica Wells

Volunteers

CLOSING WORSHIP

The Closing Worship services included the following participants Bishop Fairley, Phil Wickham, Appointive Cabinet, and Becky Jones.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS were read by each District Superintendent for their respective districts.

SESSION ADJOURNED BY BISHOP FAIRLEY.