

BISHOP PARK: It was adopted. So, it is properly before you.

*Episcopal Areas Changed to Residential Bishops*

BISHOP STREIFF: I now move that we change the words in that middle paragraph, in the sentence which starts in the second paragraph, line five, the sentence starts, "as an integral part of this plan, the number of Episcopal Areas" and to change "Episcopal Areas" into "Residential Bishops" so that the sentence will read afterwards, "as an integral part of this plan, the number of Residential Bishops in Africa shall increase from thirteen to eighteen after the 2020 General Conference."

BISHOP PARK: Any discussions? Seeing none I think that you are ready. If you approve the motion, would you raise your cards; that is a simpler way of sensing the body that would like to act on it. Thank you.

Opposed by same sign?

*[Vote by placard]*

It is adopted.

BISHOP STREIFF: *Merci beaucoup.*

BISHOP PARK: Thank you. We have Rudolph Merab, point of order, mic. 6 please.

RUDOLPH J. MERAB (Liberia): Bishop Rudolph Merab, Liberia Annual Conference. It's belated.

BISHOP PARK: OK, we then move on to next item. I would like to recognize William Campbell, mic. no. 6 please.

*Petition 60805 Complaints Against Bishops Referred to Judicial Council*

WILLIAM MARTIN CAMPBELL (New England): Bishop, thank you, Scott Campbell from the New England Conference. I would like to make a motion to refer a petition to the Judicial Council. If

I could have a second, I will speak very briefly to it.

BISHOP PARK: Is there a second? Seconded.

CAMPBELL: This afternoon the Judicial Council issued Ruling 1318, which indicated that three petitions from the Judicial Administration Committee were unconstitutional. These all referred to mandatory penalties that would be imposed during the just resolution phase, should a pastor confess to an offense. There is a fourth identical petition that deals with the same question in relation to an offense committed by a bishop. That is dealt with in a petition that was not included with the three submitted to the Judicial Council. It is No. 60805, Calendar Item 452, found in the DCA on p. 2215, and in the ADCA in p. 1154. The question for the Judicial Council is, does this piece of legislation fall under the same Ruling No. 1318 as did the three previous rulings?

BISHOP PARK: Thank you. We will vote on this motion. It will take one-fifth votes to approve. Are you ready? If you so approve it, would you raise your cards? Well, let me do it again. Because this is a matter that goes to Judicial Council, I'd rather do it according to our roll. So, let's get ready. If you support this motion, please press one (1) for yes. If not, press two (2) for no. Please vote now.

*(pause)*

*[Yes, 675; No, 116]*

*Motion for US Central Conference*

BISHOP JEREMIAH PARK: It was approved. Now, I think we are ready to move on to the next item. I would like to ask you, your attention, to DCA p. 2207. DCA p. 2207, Calendar Item 392, Petition No. 60935.

Now I will like to call upon Timothy Crouch, mic. no. 5, please.

TIMOTHY CHARLES CROUCH (North Texas): Bishop, Tim Crouch, North Texas Conference, laity. I would like to move that we refer Petition No. 60935 to establish a U.S. Central Conference to the Council of Bishops and the proposed special commission, and if I get a second, I'll speak to it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Second.

CROUCH: We have heard from the bishops in terms of adapting to new realities. We have heard about new ways of being church, and we have heard about looking for ways to find unity within the church. I would suggest that the U.S. Central Conference would be a tool that the Council of Bishops and the special commission could consider as a possibility as they look at how we move forward together. Going ahead and referring it at this point would save us time. It would mean we can get onto some other financial matters and let this go forward to the Council of Bishops and the special commission.

BISHOP PARK: This is debatable motion. Who would like to speak for? I recognize David Livingston, mic. 2, please.

DAVID SCOTT LIVINGSTON (Great Plains): Thank you, Bishop. I speak in favor of this motion. It's just the perfect, I'll be very brief, but I just think it's the perfect opportunity for us to make use of that special conference and a great example of a good way for us to move forward with the business at hand here to be able to get to, as I understand it, I wasn't here four years ago, but as I understand it, there were always petitions that we just simply don't have the time to deal with. And so this could be one that we would have a tremendous amount of debate on, that would then need to be reconsid-

### Complaints Against Bishops

Amend ¶ 413.3d as follows:

(i) If the supervisory response results in the resolution of the matter, the bishop in charge of the supervisory

### Complaints Against Bishops

Amend *Book of Discipline* ¶ 413.3c) as follows:

¶ 413. *Complaints Against Bishops*

...

3. The supervisory response may include a process seeking a just resolution in which the parties are assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. (See ¶ 363.1b, c.) The appropriate persons, including the president of the College of Bishops, or the secretary if the complaint concerns the president, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including an agreement as to confidentiality. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. Such written statement of resolution shall be given to the person in charge of that stage of the process for further action consistent with the agreement. When the complaint is based upon allegation of the specific misconduct of a bishop having conducted a ceremony celebrating a homosexual union or having performed a same-sex wedding ceremony (¶ 2702.1[b]) within the statute of limitations, and the bishop against whom the complaint was made acknowledges to the supervising bishop, within the course of the process seeking a just resolution, that he or she did in fact conduct or perform the ceremony in question, then any final just resolution of the complaint must include this bishop being suspended without salary, for no less than one full year, from all episcopal and ministerial duties and functions, including membership or formal leadership role in any general church board, agency, committee, or commission, for a period of prayerful reflection on his or her willingness to continue committing to his or her covenantal vows to God and to The United Methodist Church.

#### Rationale:

This is the only offense for which there has been a recent, widespread pattern of the "just resolution" process being abused to effectively allow for open breaking of our moral, biblical, compassionate Disciplinary standards with which some bishops personally disagree. Preserves clergy right to trial without needing trials for accountability.

resolution of the matter, the bishop in charge of the supervisory response and the two episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process (¶ 413.3) shall monitor the fulfillment of the terms of the resolution. If the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, the president or secretary of the College of Bishops may refer the matter as an Administrative Complaint (¶ 413.3[e]) or a Judicial Complaint (¶ 2704.1). If within 180 days of the receipt of the complaint by the president of the College of Bishops, or the secretary and one other bishop as provided in ¶ 413.2, the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, and the president or secretary of the College of Bishops has not referred the matter as either an Administrative Complaint or a Judicial Complaint, then the matter will move to the Council of Bishops where the president of the Council of Bishops, or the secretary of the Council of Bishops if the president is the respondent, will pursue the matter following the process herein provided for jurisdictional and central conference Colleges of Bishops.

#### Rationale:

If a jurisdictional or central conference College of Bishops is unable to process to completion a complaint against one of its bishops, then the matter ought to move to the Council of Bishops for processing.

#### ¶414.2.

Petition Number: 60621-MH-¶414.2-G; Curtis, J. Torrey - Weatherford, OK, USA for First UMC Council - Weatherford, OK.

### Spiritual Directors for Bishops

Amend ¶ 414.2 *Leadership —Spiritual and Temporal* as follows:

2. To strengthen the local church, giving spiritual leadership to both laity and clergy; and to build relationships with people of local congregations of the area. As witness to his or her own need for continuing growth and guidance in the life of the Spirit, each effective bishop shall have a spiritual director of his or her own choosing