



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



Report by Bishop on Decision of Law

This form is to be used for (please check one):

☒ Reporting of decisions of law made by bishops in response to questions of law submitted to them in writing during the regular business of a conference session (§ 56.3 Const. and ¶ 2609.6 *The Book of Discipline* 2016).

☐ Reporting of episcopal decisions on questions of law when such decisions are appealed by one-fifth of the members of the conference (§ 56.2 Const. and ¶ 2609.7 *The Book of Discipline* 2016).

Name of Bishop: L. Jonathan Holston

Address: 4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121 City: Columbia

State/Province: South Carolina ZIP/Postal Code 29203 Country: United States of America

Phone: (803) 786-9486 Fax: (803) 754-9327 E-mail: bishop@umcsc.org

Annual Conference: South Carolina Date of session: 06/05/2017 (month/day/year)

Question(s) of Law: "Regarding the Bishop's action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment

Does Judicial Council Decision 1340 prevent an Annual Conference from forming a task force, study commission, or committee if the product of that task force would likely result in a proposal that is contrary to the Discipline at the time it is written, but includes a petition to General Conference for enabling legislation before enactment?

Authorities Cited (indicate paragraph or decision number where applicable):

Constitution: Paragraph 16.3 Book of Discipline: Paragraphs 414.1, 604

Judicial Council Decision(s): 1340, 886

Signature: 
Bishop of The United Methodist Church

Date: 7/7/2017
(month/day/year)

The following must be attached:

- Decision of Law, including facts, rationale and ruling
- Text of the written request for decision
- Minutes of annual conference proceedings (relevant portions only)
- List of names and addresses of interested parties
- 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:
secretaryjudicialcouncil@gmail.com

Mail four (4) sets of hard copies to: Secretary of the Judicial Council, 5556 N Sheridan Road,
610; Chicago, IL 60640 USA



**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

4908 COLONIAL DRIVE, SUITE 121

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29203

TELEPHONE – (803) 786-9486

FAX – (803) 399-9959

L. JONATHAN HOLSTON
RESIDENT BISHOP

LOLLIE HASELDEN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

July 7, 2017

Secretary of the Judicial Council
5556 N. Sheridan Road #610
Chicago, IL 60640

Decision of Law

At the South Carolina Annual Conference on June 7, 2017, I received two written requests for rulings of law put forth by Keith Sweat, a licensed local pastor.

The first of these stated: “Regarding the Bishop’s action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment: Does Decision 1340 of the Judicial Council or some part of the Discipline render it out of order for an Annual Conference to petition the General Conference for enabling legislation so as to allow the Annual Conference to alter its relationship with the General Conference?”

The second of these stated: “Regarding the Bishop’s action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution of Realignment: Does Judicial Council Decision 1340 prevent an Annual Conference from forming a task force, study commission, or committee if the product of that task force would likely result in a proposal that is contrary to the Discipline at the time it is written, but includes a petition to General Conference for enabling legislation before enactment?”

In order for me to address these questions of law, it is necessary to discuss the resolution which was presented to the annual conference and on which I did rule on June 5, 2017. The resolution which was also authored by Keith Sweat is attached hereto in its entirety. Central to this resolution was the direction that I would within thirty days of the close of this Annual Conference appoint a task force with the sole charge of developing a plan of disaffiliation of this Conference from the structures of the United Methodist Church for presentation to the Annual Conference in 2018. I ruled that this Resolution was not properly before the body of the South Carolina Annual Conference. I ruled that Judicial Council Decision does allow for a Decision of Law to be presented at Annual Conference but requires that it be germane, that is pertinent, to the regular business of the Conference. I ruled that the resolution on disaffiliation was out of order because it is not possible for the South Carolina Annual Conference to vote on a resolution to disaffiliate or to study disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. This is the prerogative of the General

Conference pursuant to ¶16.3 of the Constitution of the United Methodist Church. Judicial Council Decision 886 states that no annual conference can legally negate, ignore or violate the provisions of the Book of Discipline. I further ruled that to allow this resolution also violates my vows to uphold the Discipline of the United Methodist Church. ¶414 of the Book of Discipline places in the ordinal first position when enumerating the Specific Responsibilities of Bishops the requirement that a Bishop: "...lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church..."

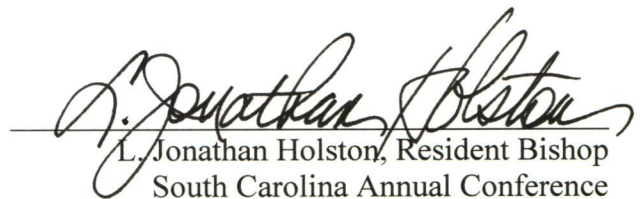
We are a connectional Church and we are required to uphold our covenant. I additionally stated that with regard to the resolution this request is hypothetical, moot and improper because the resolution and any request directed to me to establish a task force to study our disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church is asking me as a Bishop to do something I cannot in good conscience and under Church law do. This resolution is not germane to the business of the South Carolina Conference because it asks for an action which is contrary to the powers of this Annual Conference under the Constitution of the United Methodist Church.

It is important to note that no written request for a ruling of law was made directed to this Resolution and my ruling on this resolution. The two requests made are each different than the resolution presented and for that reason they are hypothetical in nature and are ruled to be so by me.

Because the Judicial Council may believe that they are properly presented as they relate at their core to the same issue presented by the resolution, I will also address them in this ruling.

It is fundamental that questions of law shall be germane to the regular business, consideration, or discussion of the conference session and shall state the connection to a specific action taken, or the question must be raised during the deliberation of a specific issue of a matter upon which the conference takes action. The questions now being asked were never raised at the Annual Conference. They are not germane to the business of the Annual Conference as the powers and duties are set out by The Book of Discipline ¶604.

I rule that the questions of law presented in writing at the South Carolina Annual Conference are moot, hypothetical and not germane to the business of the Annual Conference. They seek to have the South Carolina Conference and this Bishop to violate the Constitution of the United Methodist Church and Book of Discipline. I adopt here as my ruling of law on these written questions of law my ruling on the resolution set forth above and rely upon Judicial Council decisions 1340 and 886, the provisions of the Constitution of the United Methodist Church and in particular ¶16.3 and the provisions of The Book of Discipline and specifically ¶414.1 which set out the duties of the Bishop and ¶604 which sets out the powers and duties of the Annual Conference.


L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop
South Carolina Annual Conference

Title: Resolution for the Realignment of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and its Disaffiliation from the Structures of the United Methodist Church
Short Title: Resolution on Realignment

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

“Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.” (1 Corinthians 11:17-18)

“And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand...” (Mark 3:25)

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church asserts that the following is or ought to be obvious to all parties concerning the state of the church:

1. Schism is not separation from a church body but separation within a church body
2. To declare that “we are not of one mind” or “not of the same judgement” is to affirm that we are in schism
3. The United Methodists Church has been for a generation engaged in divisive debates on numerous matters of doctrine and polity which have created suspicion and mistrust among its people, restricted its ministry, and thereby damaged its witness to the world.
4. Attempts by people of good will to recover unity—to speak with one voice as one body—whether through dialogue, legislation, or judicial action have all failed
5. The one remaining path, the Bishops’ Commission on a Way Forward, has neither in its charge nor in its communication any intent of bringing about unity of purpose or common mission, but seeks only to maintain a unity of property and a common purse.

Even IF the Bishops’ Commission is successful in its goals, and IF they are affirmed by a subsequent General Conference, and IF they are ratified by enough subsequent Annual Conferences, and IF they are then implemented by all our administrative bodies as the General Conference intends, and IF they withstand the inevitable challenges before the Judicial Council; then the result will still condemn us to codified perpetual schism

6. Because of our ongoing schism and the unwillingness of administrative bodies to implement polity, the General Conference, the one body designated to speak with authority on behalf of the whole church
 - a. cannot establish uniform criteria for the licensing of its professionals
 - b. cannot establish uniform criteria for membership in the church

- c. cannot establish uniform criteria for being in “good standing”
 - d. cannot establish criteria for the election of members to its own quadrennial body
 - e. cannot direct the ministry of its boards and agencies either by requiring them to act in one matter or by restraining them from acting in another
 - f. cannot speak authoritatively with one voice on behalf of the church
7. The General Conference cannot perform the essential functions for which it was formed and the United Methodist Church has ceased to exist except as various independent corporations with shared interests in certain properties, copyrights, and trademarks
 8. Boards and agencies are already electing to reorganize themselves and remove the term “United Methodist” from their title
 9. Individual clergy and local churches are already separating themselves from the structures of the former United Methodist Church in a spontaneous and chaotic manner
 10. Chaos is not a friend of the Church, and any realignment or change in affiliation ought rightly to be accomplished in an organized way while charity remains with us still

II. WHEREAS

1. Even if the United Methodist Church could find an agreement on its most notorious divisions, “the denomination is faced with many decisions regarding policies and theology with no common ground. We have no desire to continue to engage in these divisive debates nor to be forced to face the crossfire between multiple front lines”
2. “We simply desire to be able to withdraw from engaging in these distractions and move forward with ministry, focused instead on our mission of connecting people to Christ and to one another”
3. An organized realignment of this magnitude takes time to develop and additional time to implement, and furthermore, “the most critical step in being able to recover from a disaster is being prepared for one in the first place.” It is, therefore, not advisable to wait until the passions of a 2019 or 2020 General Conference are unleashed upon us, but prudence and charity implore us to develop a plan now which truly allows room for the Holy Spirit to still work among us and which may be paused or set aside at any point

III. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Bishop shall within thirty days of the close of this Annual Conference appoint a task force with the sole charge of developing a plan of disaffiliation of this Conference from the structures of the United Methodist Church for presentation to the Annual Conference of 2018.

2. The task force shall be known as the Task Force on Realignment
3. The task force shall consist of twelve members--not more than six clergy and not less than six laity.
4. The members shall demonstrate a sincere desire to participate in the work of the task force and an unequivocal commitment to the success of their charge.
5. To avoid the actual or apparent conflicts that could result from their unique vows and positions of trust, neither the Bishop nor any District Superintendent shall serve on the task force.
6. The task force shall elect its own chair and other officers as it deems helpful.
7. All officers and employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, its boards, trust, agencies, committees, and other subsidiary entities are charged to expedite requests for information from the task force and to make themselves available for interviews.
8. The Conference Treasurer shall make available to the task force a budget of \$10,000 from the Conference Administration Fund for the procurement of legal counsel, financial consultants, and other specialists it may deem necessary to its work. The GCFA shall make such editorial changes to its report as are necessary to provide these funds
9. Should the task force determine the need for additional funding then they shall be permitted to solicit designated gifts from the local churches to be remitted through the Conference Treasurer's Office.
10. Since realignment brings with it inherent sadness, hurt, and costs of various kinds; as far as it is within its purview, the plan ought to allow clergy or local churches of this conference who desire to follow a different path the opportunity to do so without extraneous burdens or nonessential costs.

Submitted to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals
Rev. Keith D Sweat
Mt Bethel/Kings Chapel Charge
Greenwood District
13 March, 2017

Regarding the Bishop's action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment: Does Decision 1340 of the Judicial Council or some part of the Discipline render it out of order for an Annual Conference to petition the General Conference for enabling legislation so as to allow the Annual Conference to alter its relationship with the General Conference?

Rev. KEITH SWEAT
MT BETHEL / KINGS CHAPEL
GREENWOOD DISTRICT
7 JUNE 2017

Minutes of the annual of
Conference

Regarding the Bishop's action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution of Realignment: Does Judicial Council Decision 1340 prevent an Annual Conference from forming a ~~task~~ task force, study commission, or committee if the product of that task force would likely result in a proposal that is contrary to the Discipline at the time it is written, but includes a petition to General Conference for enabling legislation before enactment?

Rev. KEITH SWENT
Mt Bethel / KINGS CHAPEL
7 June 2017

SECTION IV
The Forty-Sixth Session of the
SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church
Organized 1972
Continuing the South Carolina Conference (1785)
And the South Carolina Conference (1866)
Sunday, June 4, 2017 – Wednesday, June 7, 2016
TD Convention Center
Greenville, South Carolina
Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding
CONFERENCE THEME:
"A More Excellent Way: We Walk By Faith, Not by Sight"

The First Day – Sunday Evening
June 4, 2017

Registration: Registration began at 2:00 P.M. at the TD Convention Center. Each registrant received a conference badge, a registration booklet including additional reports and other information, and information regarding the Greenville area.

The Laity Reception was held in Room 102 B- C from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The Lay Orientation: The Board of Laity conducted an Orientation Session for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference at 4 P.M. in Room 102A. The session began with a welcome by **Ms. Barbara Ware**, Conference Lay Leader. All lay members present were provided information and instruction by the Conference Lay Leader and others concerning the agenda, movement, procedures, and parliamentary process of the 2017 Annual Conference.

An orientation was held at 4:00 p.m. for all who desired to attend.

Clergy Session: **Bishop L. Jonathan Holston** called The Clergy Session to order at 5:00 P.M. in Room 202. **Bishop Holston** opened the meeting with the singing of "Blessed Assurance" and with a word of prayer. **Reverend Fran Elrod** thanked those who serve on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and district committees for their service in the past year. **Reverend Patricia Parrish** made the report of the Administrative Review Committee. **Reverend Mel Arant** presented the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry. **Reverend Fran Elrod**, Chair of The Board of Ordained Ministry thanked **Reverend Ken Nelson** for his assistance and support to him in this position.

The Second Day – Monday Morning
June 5, 2017

A Health Screening began at 7 a.m. in Hall 1.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive was held at 7:30 a.m.

The Kidz Konference kicked off at 8:00 a.m. in rooms 103 and 104.

The Reconciling Ministries Breakfast began at 7:15 a.m.

At 7:30 A.M., the Conference began in the TD Center with a service of **Holy Communion**. **The Reverend Michael Ritter**, was the celebrant for the service.

At 8:00 a.m. registration continued.

At 8:39 A.M., **Bishop Jonathan Holston** called the Conference to order and invited those in attendance to sing the historic opening hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." **Dr. George Howle, Greenville District Superintendent; Rev. Bob Howell, Jr, Buncombe Street UMC; Chris Stone-TD Convention Center** welcomed conference attendees.

Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary offered the following organizational motions: That the tellers nominated by the District Superintendents for the 2017 Annual Conference Session be elected as nominated without reading and that their names be published in the 2017 Conference Journal (approved); That the attendance register signed at the time of registration be designated the official roll and record of attendance for the 2017 Annual Conference session (approved); That the conference program printed and distributed in the pre-conference materials-along with such scheduling adjustments which the President and Secretary have since made-be adopted as the Agenda for the 2017 Annual Conference Session provided that the President may adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session (approved); and That the seating area of the floor of the TD Convention Center together with any wheelchairs present on the floor arena, and area surrounding the platform be designated as the "**bar of the conference**" for all business sessions of the 2017 Annual Conference session (including sections 24 & 25 to the curtain).

Each motion was approved by the delegates. **Rev. Ken Nelson** advised that daily the written proceedings of the conference will be available online by 10 PM, and the daily Advocate will be distributed so that attendees may share these summaries with their local churches. Ken then Reviewed the contents of the pre-registration packets –

Lee Powell, Yvette Marie Pressley, Cheryl Elizabeth Remchuk, Timothy Scott Reeves, Rebekah Lee Saveland, Steven Sylvester Scheid, Kyu-Seok Shin, Richard Clark Somerville, Stephanie Elaine Stafford, Willie Earl Wade Jr., Roy Leo Wesley and John Woods.

Rev. Ken Nelson offered announcements before adjourning for lunch: \$14,000+ was given in the offering last night. The Conference was also asked to remember the **Rev. Mat Brewington** who is in ICU.

Bishop Holston adjourned the Conference for lunch break.

During the lunch break the candidates for ordination and commissioning gathered for a rehearsal, the African American Clergy Women held a luncheon wherein the **Rev. Jeanette Cooper** preached the sermon. A local church mission fair was also held.

At 2:08 PM **Bishop Holston** reconvened the Conference following the lunch break.

Council on Finance and Administration report (for information only) presented by **Rev. Mitch Houston and Rev. Walter Cantwell**. 92% apportionment giving; slightly ahead currently than where we were last year – 2017 goal 95%. Epworth Children's Home has requested to engage in a Capital Campaign and CF&A has affirmed and will report on Wednesday. **Rev. Walter Cantwell** presented 2018 Budget. 17,333,125 requested; 16,946,435 recommended – maintaining goal of 15% of average net funds. General and Jurisdictional apportionments cannot be altered (lines 13-20, 4,169,735 – increase of 110,000 from 2017 – a 2.7% overall increase.). Line items 1-12, page 6 are Annual Conference apportionments 13,163,390 requested; 12,776,700 recommended. Slight increase for conference benevolences, District Superintendent Salaries, Conference Admin (Report 7, p. 5) with 0.5% increase overall. 2018 Budget shows a 1% increase over the 2017 Budget.

Committee Resolutions and Appeals report presented (For information and reference) by the **Rev. Steve Simoneaux**.

- Resolution to Oppose Human Trafficking and Help End Suicide and Homelessness Among LGBTQ Youth
 - o Edit - Strike names of signees that are not voting members.
- Healing from the Legacy of Lynching
- Resolution Against a Muslim Ban
- Resolution Against the Dakota Access Pipeline in Solidarity with Standing Rock
- Resolution for the Realignment of South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and Its Disaffiliation from the Structures of The United Methodist Church

- Bishop Holston speaks on resolution and rules it out of order. Only General Conference can approve of such separation. Bishop Holston's statement encourages us to be faithful and move forward in prayer under the Discipline.

Rev. Keith Sweat (*Ware shoals/Capers Chapel*) is recognized – claims his resolution does not remove us from the UMC only develops a taskforce to consider enabling legislation. *Bishop Holston renders action out of order.* **Rev. Keith Sweat** – ruling of law; Bishop renders out of order.

- Resolution Supporting, Recognizing, and Honoring the Services of Law Enforcement Officers
- Resolution: A Formal Apology from Trinity UMC to Centenary UMC
- Welcoming the Migrant in Our Midst

Reports of the United Methodist Theological Schools presented by **Dr. Albert Mosley** 13 Schools affiliated with The UMC. Required to have 40% programming related to The UMC. Overwhelming majority of Board members are UM. Educate the overwhelming majority of UM pastors. Host course of study for part time and full time of local pastors. Successful programs to reduce student debt – great deal above MEF funds. Substantial support to Central Conferences, paying for students from abroad to study at our UM seminaries. Faculty rooted in the tradition of the church and dedicated to missional activity and education.

A Word from Our Colleges & Universities: **Dr. Elizabeth Dinndorf, Columbia College** – presented a report for the 4 UM colleges in South Carolina.

Ms. Laney Wood – Columbia College student shared her experience at Columbia – challenged to be a force of transformation in and out of the classroom. She joined Washington Street and served as an intern.

Mr. Robert Gordon – Claflin University – “A city on a hill cannot be hidden” – Great things still do happen on hills. His life has been impacted so that he may impact others.

Mr. Adam Mott – SMC – After dropping out of high school and college and suffering from ADD, **Adam** was able to connect and was offered opportunities and support to succeed.

Mr. Will Randall – Wofford – seeks to go to Medical School and enter into medical missions in the Spanish speaking world. Wofford has prepared him to be a difference-maker. Expressed appreciation for the conference's support of Methodist schools.

The Fourth Day - Wednesday
June 7, 2017

At 7:30 a.m. a Service of Word and Table was held. **The Reverend Will Malambri** led in worship and the **Reverend J. Derrick Cattenhead** preached the Homily entitled "As For Us, Who are Believers."

At 8:30 a.m. **Bishop Holston** convened the last day of the Annual Conference with the singing of "I Know the Lord!"

The Rev. Dr. Albert Moseley began the Bible Study with greetings and with a reading from Matthew 14:22 – 31. He admonished the congregation to get of the boat and to trust that God will enable us to walk on water.

Bishop Holston called the Business session to order at 9:12 AM.

Rev. Ken Nelson referred the body to the Consent Calendar on p.77. Move adoption of calendar. *Approved.*

Rev. Steve Simmineux presented the Report of Committee on Resolutions and refers body to **Resolution 1 on page 67**. Committee on Resolutions supported approval of this resolution. FOR

Charles Ard (St. Stephen), is against adding language concerning LGBTQ community.

Rev. John Culp, is for supporting resolution – as ministers of Jesus Christ we took a vow to love and protect the children of God. FOR

Rev. Gary Cochran (Greenwood District), is against resolution putting the churches stance in writing as we already have a lesbian bishop.

Kathy Caughman (Shiloh Charge, Laurens County) – at a young age she heard a Baptist minister call her beyond wretched and came so close to committing suicide but the grace of God saved her. There are people in desperate need. God intends for all to be saved. That day, a knock came at the door and unconditional love saved her that day. FOR

- **Rev. Drew Martin** (Mt. Horeb, Columbia) – presents a motion to amend by addition. Line 57-58 by addition: ...youth, in accordance with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church. (seconded)
- AGAINST – **Rev. John Culp**, 'this is just muddying the waters'.
- FOR – **John Gibbons** (Salem, Irmo) – protection is just as important for LGBTQ community.

- Members and clergy asked to stand who have been a part of the ministry of Startex. **Rev. Richard Lewis** leads us in prayer.
- Trinity UMC (Greenville District) – ad-interim closure and adoption by Buncombe Street UMC. *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - *Approved.*
 - Prayer offered by **Rev. George Allen** for the ministry of Trinity and new life. Members and clergy recognized.
- Bath UMC (Greenwood District) - *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - *Approved*
 - Prayer offered by **Rev. Williams** for the life and ministry of Bath. Members and clergy recognized.
- Gassaway UMC (Greenwood District) - *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - *Approved.*
 - Prayer offered by **Rev. Stephen Love**. Members and clergy recognized.
- 2 additional resolutions were passed out to the body:
 - Pleasant View UMC (Spartanburg District) - *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD. Approved.*
 - Prayer offered by **Rev. Jack Washington**. Members and clergy recognized.
- Timmonsville UMC (Florence District) - *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - *Approved.*
 - Members and clergy recognized. **Rev. Joe Long** offered prayer.

Report of Charge Line Changes presented by **Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson** pp. 113-114. These are efforts to strengthen churches for ministry. Resolution *approved*.

Keith Sweat (Greenwood District) – requested a decision of law regarding actions on the 5th of June regarding decision on alignment.

Bishop Holston received the statements below and stated that he believes only the General Conference has the power to engage in what the resolution pertain.

The questions of law include:

- (1) "Regarding the Bishop's action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment: Does Decision 1340 of the Judicial Council or some part of the Discipline render it out of order for an Annual Conference to petition the General Conference to alter its relationship with the General Conference?"
- (2) "Regarding the Bishop's action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment: Does Judicial Council Decision 1340 prevent an

Annual Conference from forming a task force, study commission, or committee if the product of that task force would likely result in a proposal that is contrary to the Discipline at the time it is written, but includes a petition to General Conference for enabling legislation before enactment?"

Robert Cox (Greenville District) expressed gratitude for all of the hospitality team.

Rev. Ken Nelson stated, after consultation with Bishop and Committee on the Annual Conference I would like to offer the following motions:

- That the dates set for the 2018 SC Annual Conference be **June 3-6, 2018**
 - *Approved.*
- That the host site for the 2018 SC Annual Conference be the **TD Convention Center in Greenville, SC.**
 - *Approved.*

Rev. Wayne Jackson (Florence District) – Annual Conference future sites committee report. Recommendation for future sites for 2019 and on. Recognized the committee members. Discussed the many facets considered when picking an Annual Conference venue. Recommends that we extend the contract with TD Convention Center in Greenville a third year. TD Center has verbally agreed to do this for us and gave us the best financial incentives to return a third year.

After year 3 in Greenville, it is recommended that we go to Myrtle Beach (2020) for three years, and then back to Florence (2023). It is recommended that this will become a rotation. All venues meet our needs. No matter where we are we'll accomplish our mission. (*Presented for information*)

- **Rubye Williams Stines** (Hartsville District) – What happened to Columbia which was in the study early on?
 - **Rev. Jackson** – noted several problems: parking (\$9,000); to accommodate events we'd need to use the Colonial Life Arena and Columbia Convention Center and the issue of moving piano and organ. Rent of convention center required rental of Hotels that were in contract with them.

Jennifer Cheatham (Greenville District) – question answered by **Rev. Ken Nelson** - first week in June and Myrtle Beach dilemma. Sheraton Convention Center does not see high school student traffic being 3 blocks from the Beach. Cued Video expressing gratitude for those who worked tirelessly to make this year's Annual Conference gathering a success.

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF INTERESTED PARTIES-DECISION OF LAW-SC CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH-JUNE 2017

Name	Title	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Telephone
L. Jonathan Holston	Resident Bishop, SC Conference	4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121	Columbia	SC	29203	bishop@umcsc.org	(803) 786-9486
Kaye Crowe	Chancellor-SC Conference	4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121	Columbia	SC	29203	Kay@basjlaw.com	(803) 261-2798
Lollie Haselden	Executive Assistant to the Bishop	4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121	Columbia	SC	29203	LHaselden@umcsc.org	(803) 786-9486
Kenneth L. Nelson	Conference Secretary	4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 122	Columbia	SC	29203	conferencesecretary@umcsc.org	(803) 312-2824
Keith Sweat	Licensed Local Pastor-Petitioner	33 Cadle Crossing Rd	Windsor	SC	29856	kdsweat@umcsc.org	(864) 396-6436

List of Interested Parties in Docket No. 1017-8

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston
Resident Bishop
South Carolina Annual Conference
4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 786-9486
E-mail: bishop@umcsc.org

Kaye Crowe, Esq.
Chancellor
South Carolina Annual Conference
4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 261-2798
E-mail: Kay@basjlaw.com

Lollie Haselden
Executive Assistant to Bishop
South Carolina Annual Conference
4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 786-9486
E-mail: LHaselden@umcsc.org

Kenneth L. Nelson
Conference Secretary
South Carolina Annual Conference
4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 312-2824
E-mail: conferencesecretary@umcsc.org

Keith Sweat
Licensed Local Pastor-Petitioner
33 Cadle Crossing Rd
Windsor, SC 29856
Phone: (864) 396-6436
E-mail: kdsweat@umcsc.org