



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): _____

Date of session: _____ (month/day/year) Location: _____

Name of Secretary: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Book of Discipline: _____

Legislation: _____

Act of General Conference: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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 (relevant portions only)
 - List of names and addresses of interested parties, including e-mail
 - Other relevant materials (e.g. conference rules, resolutions, policies, reports)
- Eight (8) hard copies must be submitted via USPS or other delivery service to:
Secretary of the Judicial Council, 5556 N. Sheridan Road, #610, Chicago, IL 60640, USA
- Electronic copies in both Word and PDF (with security features disabled) must be submitted to:
secretaryjudicialcouncil@gmail.com

Text of the Petition for a Declaratory Decision as presented to, and adopted by, the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, June 24, 2018.

Austin Adkinson moved the following:

I request a declaratory decision regarding the following five questions:

1. Does any part of paragraph 722 and/or any part of the General Conference Rules of Order permit the requirement of mandatory registration fees for all non-delegates attending and observing the 2019 special session of General Conference?
2. Do mandatory registration fees for visitors/observers function as an unlawful economic obstruction to the openness and accountability function of being physically present to observe a General Conference and participate in the democratic processes of such a conference through the conversations that take place within the plenary hall, including those outside of the bar and/or outside of convened sessions?
3. Do mandatory registrations fees for attendees of a General Conference constitute an unconstitutional violation of Division One, Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, by establishing a de facto barrier to full inclusion based on economic condition?
4. Pursuant to paragraph 722, is the Commission on General Conference authorized to adopt a policy that would have the impact of infringing upon and substantially curtailing the spirit of paragraph 722, absent a process to amend the General Conference Rules of Order?
5. Absent any explicit authority in either the Discipline or the policies and procedures of General Conference, is the Commission on General Conference empowered to make a decision to establish registration fees for attendance at General Conference which would have the effect of curtailing the observation and participation of visitors or other attendees?

Interested Parties related to the Petition for a Declaratory Decision adopted by, the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, June 24, 2018.

Elaine. J. W. Stanovsky, Bishop
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Austin Adkinson, Pastor
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(maker of the motion to petition the Judicial Council)

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(Secretary, Pacific Northwest Conference)

Commission on the General Conference
generalconference@gcfa.org
(named in the petition for a Declaratory Decision)

Sunday, June 24, 2018 – Daily Proceedings

[Note: The following is the portion of the proceedings of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference relevant to this Petition for a Declaratory Decision.]

Bishop Stanovsky called the session to order at 8:30 a.m.

Prayer. Wendy Riddle offered prayer to open the session.

Committee on Nominations: *Rich Lang* presented the report of the Nominations Committee, with changes. **Deferred** until copies of changes are distributed to members who had not received them.

Focus Session on Administrative Support: *Elizabeth Schindler* moved the adoption of the **Conference Budget** (Petition EE-1).

- *Austin Adkinson* asked whether the budget includes provision of funds to assist delegates and alternates attend the 2019 Special Called Session of General Conference. The answer was yes, the budget does provide funding to support attendance by some conference staff, and the delegates elected for the 2020 General Conference session.
- *Austin Adkinson* then **MOVED** that the Conference **request a declaratory decision** of the Judicial Council. **Seconded.** Bishop *Stanovsky* **deferred** action on motion, until the text of the motion for a declaratory decision could be made available on screen.
- The 2019 Annual Conference Budget (Petition EE-1) was **ADOPTED**.

Committee on Nominations: *Rich Lang* completed the presentation of the Nominations report. The report was **ADOPTED**.

Rules Committee: *Shane Moore* presented the final report of the Rules Committee. (PCH pages 115 and 116).

[Several actions were taken pertaining to the Rules of the Annual Conference.]

New Petition #2, Poor People's Campaign. *Deb Conklin* moved a new resolution of support for the Poor People's Campaign. **Seconded. Deferred** until text of the motion could be distributed.

New Petition #1, Family Separation. *Dave Wright* moved a new resolution concerning current practices of separation of immigrant and refugee families by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. **Seconded.** Consideration **deferred** to give time for members to read the text of the petition.

Motion to Request a Declaratory Decision. The motion to request a declaratory decision of the Judicial Council was re-opened, with the text of projected. Bishop *Stanovsky* reviewed United Methodist polity concerning requests for decisions of the Judicial Council. At the bishop's request, *Austin Adkinson* offered a narrative summary of the legal questions being asked. After an opportunity for discussion, the motion was **ADOPTED**, with Bishop *Stanovsky* noting that it was adopted by a supermajority.

New Petition 2, Poor People's Campaign. Consideration of the petition was re-opened, and after discussion, it was **ADOPTED**.

New Petition 1, Family Separation. Consideration of the petition was re-opened, and after amendment to include communication with the U.S. Senators from Idaho, it was **ADOPTED**.