

JUDICIAL COUNCIL DOCKET
OCTOBER 28 – 31, 2009
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Docket Item 1009-1: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop Mary Ann Swensen of the California-Pacific Annual Conference Related to Conference Clergy Benefit Charge

Docket Item 1009-2: IN RE: Request for a Declaratory Decision from the Commission on the General Conference on the Meaning, Effect, and Application of ¶ 13 of the Constitution as It Relates to ¶ 502.3e in Determining Any Restrictions on the Degree of Adjustment in Number of Delegates to Be Made by the Secretary of the General Conference

Docket Item 1009-3: IN RE: Request from the Western North Carolina Conference to Determine the Legality of a Clergy Couple Housing Policy Adopted by the Annual Conference

Docket Item 1009-4: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton of the Detroit Conference Regarding the Reconciling Ministries Network

Docket Item 1009-5: IN RE: Request for a Declaratory Decision from the Minnesota Annual Conference Related to Meaning, Effect, and Application of Section II, Article IV 2 and Section VI, Article I of the Constitution as They Apply to ¶ 316.6 and ¶ 327.2 and the Prohibition of Local Pastors and Provisional Members Voting on Constitutional Amendments

Docket Item 1009-6: IN RE: Request for a Declaratory Decision from the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference on the Meaning, Effect, and Application of ¶ 354 and ¶ 355 in Determining If the Bishop, Cabinet, Conference Relations Committee, or Board of Ordained Ministry Can Put Requirements on an Individual Who Is Granted Voluntary Leave of Absence

Docket Item 1009-7: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop John R. Schol of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Regarding the Authority of “Adventure Guides” Who Are Not Elders to Conduct Local Church or Charge Conferences in Light of ¶ 246.5

Docket Item 1009-8: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop John R. Schol of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference as to Whether a Resolution on Human Sexuality Was Properly Before the Conference in Light of ¶ 161 F

Docket Item 1009-9: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop Janice Riggle Huie of the Texas Conference Regarding Retirement Incentives Utilizing Pension Reserve in Light of ¶ 613.1

Docket Item 1009-10: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference as to Whether the Choice Empowerment Apportionment Paradigm Adopted in 2004 and Still in Effect in the Annual Conference Is in Violation of ¶ 247.14

Docket Item 1009-11: IN RE: Request for a Declaratory Decision from the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference as to Whether a Retired Elder in Full Connection Can Serve as Chairperson of a Local Church Committee on Finance

Docket Item 1009-12: IN RE: Request for a Declaratory Decision from the Virginia Annual Conference as to the Meaning, Application, and Effect of ¶¶ 639, 1504, and 1506 with Respect to Sponsorship and Administration of Denominational Pension and Benefit Plans

Docket Item 1009-13: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop William W. Hutchinson of the Louisiana Conference as to Whether ¶ 247.13 is Violated by the Practice of the Setting of Clergy Compensation by the Charge Conference Prior to Knowing the Exact Amount of the Annual Health Insurance Program

Docket Item 1009-14: IN RE: Review of Decision of Bishop D. Max Whitfield of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference Regarding the Legality of the Annual Conference's Vote on Constitutional Amendments

Docket Item 1009-15: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop Susan Hassinger of the Wyoming Annual Conference Related to Provisions for Voluntary Retirement

Docket Item 1009-16: IN RE: Request for a Declaratory Decision from the Wyoming Annual Conference Regarding the Complaint Process With Reference to ¶¶ 361, 362, and 2701.2d

Docket Item 1009-17: IN RE: Review of Decision of Bishop Jeremiah J. Park of the New York Annual Conference Related to a Request for a Decision of Law on Legality of a Resolution Supporting Persons Who Dissent from The Book of Discipline

Docket Item 1009-18: IN RE: Review of a Decision of Law by Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton of the West Michigan Annual Conference Regarding Adoption of a Master Group Program for Insuring All Churches in the Conference

Docket Items 1009-19: IN RE: Review of Decisions of Law by Bishop Elaine J. Stanovsky of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference Related to Return to Conference Membership After Resignation from the Episcopacy

Docket Items 1009-20: IN RE: Review of Decisions of Law by Bishop Elaine J. Stanovsky of the Yellowstone Annual Conference Regarding Clergy Withdrawal Between Sessions of Annual Conference

Docket Item 1009E-21: IN RE: Review of Decision of Law by Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. of the California-Nevada Annual Conference as to Whether or Not Paragraph 1506.7 Permits the Annual Conference to Adopt a Past Service Annuity Rate that Remains the Same from One Year to the Next

Because of the unusual nature of a request from the California-Nevada Annual Conference, the Judicial Council has scheduled an emergency meeting to take place on October 31, 2009, in Durham, North Carolina. Bishop Warner Brown was asked at the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session in June of 2009 to rule on whether the annual conference may adopt a Past Service Annuity Rate which remains the same from one year to the next.

Although Bishop Brown made his ruling in a timely fashion, the material was not received by the secretary of the Judicial Council in time for inclusion on the docket for the Fall 2009 Judicial Council meeting. The Judicial Council's decision on Bishop Brown's ruling has the potential to affect the pensions of retired clergy beginning in January 2010. To delay consideration of this matter until April 2010 could cause considerable confusion, including retroactive adjustment of pension rates for retired clergy and duplication of effort in issuing checks.

Briefs on this matter are due on September 21, 2009, and should be submitted to The Rev. F. Belton Joyner, Jr., 1821 Hillandale Road, Suite 1B, PMB 334, Durham, NC 27705.