



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 CONSEIL JUDICIAIRE DE L'ÉGLISE 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

Request for Declaratory Decision on GC Registration Fees

Bishop Malone, I move to request East Ohio Conference to ask for a Declaratory Decision from the Judicial Council regarding registration fees for visitors attending 2019 special session of General Conference as to the constitutionality, meaning, effect and application.

If there is a second, I will speak to the motion and questions to be ask

On May 16th, the Commission on General Conference announced that registration fees will be charged to visitors attending the 2019 special session of General Conference. These fees would range from \$200-\$300 per person.

The rationale for asking questions of the Judicial Council is based on -

Paragraph 722 of the 2016 Book of Discipline states in part, “In the spirit of openness and accountability, all meetings of councils, boards, agencies, commissions, and committees of the Church at all levels of the church...shall be open”.

And on, Division One, Article IV, on Inclusiveness, of the constitution of The United Methodist Church, states in part, “In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition”.

Therefore, the reason for the following 5 questions for the Judicial Council:

- 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:

Commission on the General Conference Chairperson

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the lake shore just west of Cleveland. The congregation's final worship service was held on May 27, 2018.

The Brewster United Methodist Church, located in the Tuscarawas District, started in 1910 and was originally a Methodist Episcopal Church. Their final worship service was held on December 31, 2017.

The Sycamore Tree United Methodist Church has roots that go back to the earliest days of Methodism in Ohio and reflects its unfolding history. In 1811 the South Street Church (later First Methodist Episcopal Church) was built on the corner of South and Fourth Street in Steubenville. Francis Asbury preached there in 1813. Sycamore Tree UMC closed on July 1, 2017.

Two mergers are celebrated that have taken place this past year. On the Mid-Ohio District, the merger of the McZena Hope and the Lakefork United Methodist Churches. and on the North Coast District the merger of the Simpson and Westlake United Methodist Churches.

Motion Allen Laferty moved that Conference Board of Trustees report be adopted.
Motion carried

Motion Allen Laferty moved to adjourn from corporate session of annual conference.
Motion carried.

Motion Bill Watts moved to request a Declaratory Decision from the Judicial Council regarding registration fees for visitors attending 2019 Special Session of General Conference. Five specific questions comprised the request to the Judicial Council. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Steve Stultz Costello explained what happens to the resolutions after they are voted on. Besides becoming a permanent record of the Conference Journal, they are taken back to the local churches and shared with congregations.

Motion Brian Sheetz moved to allow Karen Manczko from the Wespath Investment Team to discuss the fund's philosophy and holdings. Motion carried.

Motion Ed Hoar moved **Resolution 2018-06** entitled, *Consider Investing in Wespath's 'Social Values Choice' Suite of Funds*. Motion not carried with the required 2/3 vote..

COURTESIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Ivy Smith brought Armando Arellano who introduced Devora Anne Umpig Julian from the Phillippines who shared greetings. Jason Hockran introduced Samuel K. Quarshie, Director of The United Methodist Missionary Compound Liberia Annual Conference Liberia Annual Conference who shred greetings

PRAYER AND RECESS - Don Upson offered prayer.