

SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MEMORANDUM NO. 1363

IN RE: Docket Nos. 1018-2, IN RE: Petition for Declaratory Decision from the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters regarding the constitutionality, meaning, application, and effect of ¶ 408.1(b) in relation to ¶¶ 30, 542.2, 543.17, and ¶2201.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*.

IN RE: Docket 1018-6, Review of a Bishop's Decision of Law in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference concerning if the bishop, committee(s) or agency(ies) have the authority to join and participate in a lawsuit filed against the New Jersey State Board of Education and Acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education.

IN RE: 1018-7, Review of a Bishop's Decision of Law in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference concerning if it is permissible to schedule "Church Superconferences" at locations other than the involved local churches

IN RE: 1018-8, Review of a Bishop's Decision of Law in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference concerning if the clergy session must (a) exclude a portion of the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry based on a policy that is not compliant with *The Book of Discipline 2016* and (b) exclude from consideration two candidates who acknowledged in writing that they are married to persons of the same gender.

IN RE: 1018-9, Review of a Bishop's Decision of Law in the North Texas Annual Conference concerning if (a) the term "in our churches" in ¶ 341.6 include property outside the walls of a church building and (b) the annual conference can interpret the meaning of a clause in *The Book of Discipline 2016*.

Deferred until the February 2018 meeting of the Judicial Council.

October 26, 2018

Ruben Reyes was absent.

Warren Plowden, first lay alternate, participated in this decision.