The highest court in The United Methodist Church

**WHAT DOES IT DO?**
Determines whether decisions by other United Methodist bodies are legal and/or constitutional.

**MEMBERS**
- 9 total
- 4 clergy and 4 laity
- 1 seat alternating between clergy and lay every 8 years
- Nominated by Council of Bishops or General Conference delegates
- Elected by General Conference

**COUNCIL SESSIONS**
- Held twice a year in spring and fall
- Convened before and during General Conference

**WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL CONSIDER?**
- Petitions from the Council of Bishops
- Petitions from the General Conference and central, jurisdictional and annual conferences
- All decisions of law made by bishops
- Appeals of decisions of lower church courts

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A RULING?**
- Decisions are final.
- Involved parties are informed.
- Rulings are posted online.
- If necessary *The Book of Discipline* is revised

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