



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): ALASKA DELEGATION TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

Date of session: 02/23/2021 (month/day/year) Location: ANCHORAGE, ALASKA-BY ZOOM

Name of Secretary: LONNIE D. BROOKS

Address: 2020 MULDOON RD #344 City: ANCHORAGE

State/Province: ALASKA ZIP/Postal Code 99504-3683 Country: USA


Phone: 907-333-4529 Fax: 907-332-1400 E-mail: lonnieinalaska@gmail.com

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

Book of Discipline: ¶¶ 507.5, 507.6, and 507.7

Legislation: _____

Act of General Conference: _____

Signature: 
Secretary of the Conference/Body

Date: 02/23/2021
 (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)
- Send electronic copy of this form and all materials in PDF and Microsoft Word format to: **secretaryjudicialcouncil@gmail.com**
- Mail eight (8) sets of hard copies to:
**UMC Judicial Council, c/o LaNella Smith, Assistant to the J.C. Secretary,
 1215 Shady Lane, Durham, NC 27712**

THE ALASKA DELEGATION TO
THE UNITED METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 2020

23 February 2021

The Meeting of the Alaska Delegation to General Conference was called to order by Chair Jo Anne Hayden at 4:04 pm on Tuesday, 23Feb21, Alaska Standard Time. All members attended electronically by Zoom. Present were the following members: Lonnie Brooks, Jim Doepken, Jo Anne Hayden, Fran Lynch, Kelly Marciales, Bennie Grace Nabua, Lisa Talbott, and Dan Wilcox.

Jo Anne said the first order of business would be to elect a secretary, and she nominated Lonnie Brooks. There were no other nominations, and Lonnie was elected by unanimous vote.

Jo Anne said that the next item on the agenda was consideration of the draft of a Request for Declaratory Decision for the Judicial Council, and she asked Lonnie to describe the proposed RDD.

Lonnie provided a review of the proposal, which is attached to and included in these minutes by reference. After a brief discussion of the process and the content, Jo Anne called for the vote. All members voted yes, and the motion was carried unanimously.

There followed discussion of other items of interest to the Delegation, and the meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lonnie D. Brooks
Secretary

THE ALASKA DELEGATION TO
THE UNITED METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 2020

23 February 2021

WHEREAS The delegation of an annual conference of The United Methodist Church is a body authorized by the General Conference by references in ¶¶512.1, 524.1, 705.1.a), and 705.1.b) of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, and

WHEREAS ¶2610.2.(c) gives to “any body created or authorized by the General Conference” the authority to make of the Judicial Council a Request for Declaratory Decision (RDD) “on matters relating to or affecting the work of such body,” and

WHEREAS Jo Anne Hayden, Jim Doepken, Lonnie Brooks, Dan Wilcox, Fran Lynch, Lisa Talbott, Kelly Tazuko Marciales, and Bennie Grace Nabua were duly elected by the Alaska United Methodist Conference at its 2018 annual conference and are listed as the members of the Alaska Delegation on page 84 of the 2020 *Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate*, and together they constitute the Alaska Delegation, and

WHEREAS the work of the General Conference delegation of an annual conference may include submission of petitions to the General Conference as provided in ¶507 and must include making decisions on all petitions before the General Conference as the connectional legislative body of the Church (¶16), and

WHEREAS on 30Oct20 the Alaska Delegation submitted by email to the Rev. Ms Abby Parker Herrera, the Petitions Secretary of the UMC, a petition entitled “Debate Procedure for Constitutional Amendments in Annual Conferences,” which petition and the email with which it was submitted are attached to this document, and

WHEREAS ¶507 says, in relevant part, the following:

- ¶507.5. Petitions must be postmarked by a national postal service no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference.
- 6. If petitions are transmitted by a means other than a national postal service, they must be in the hands of the petitions secretary no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference.
Exceptions to the time limitations shall be granted for petitions originating from an annual conference session held between 230 and 45 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference, and for other petitions at the discretion of the Committee on Reference.
- 7. Petitions adopted and properly submitted by annual conferences, jurisdictional and central conferences, the Division on Ministries With Young People, or general agencies or councils of the Church, and petitions properly submitted by individual members (either clergy or lay) of The United Methodist Church and local church groups, provided that they have been received by the petitions

secretary or secretary of the General Conference no later than 230 days before the opening of General Conference, shall be printed in the Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate.

and

WHEREAS the opening session of General Conference 2020 was announced by the Commission on the General Conference (COGC) to be on 29Aug21 (<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/new-general-conference-dates-announced>), and

WHEREAS 230 days prior to the announced date of the opening session is 11Jan21, meaning that the submission date of the delegation's petition of 30Oct20 was well in advance of the 230 day due date for submission, and

WHEREAS COGC has announced that petitions received after the original due date of 18Sep19, a date which has no relationship whatsoever to the currently scheduled opening session of General Conference 2020, will be treated as late petitions subject to review and disposition by the Committee on Reference, the COGC's having said, "The Committee on Reference is the appropriate body to determine whether petitions submitted after the original 230 and 45 day deadlines should be considered." (<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/commission-on-the-general-conference-establishes-timeline-for-next-steps>),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Delegation, under its authority granted in ¶2610.2.(c), submits to the Judicial Council this Request for Declaratory Decision on the meaning, application, and effect of ¶¶507.5, 507.6, and 507.7 as they relate to and inform the decision of the Commission on the General Conference to treat all petitions received from bodies other than annual conferences as late and subject to review and disposition by the Committee on Reference when such petitions are submitted any time after 18Sep19, with particular attention to those petitions submitted between and including 19Sep19 and 11Jan21. In particular the Judicial Council is asked to provide answers to the following questions:

- 1) Does the phrase found in ¶¶507.5 and 507.6 "no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference" and the nearly identical phrase found in ¶507.7 "no later than 230 days before the opening of General Conference" provide to the Commission on the General Conference authority to interpret the language to mean "after the *original* 230 and 45 day deadlines" as stated in its press release of 18Dec20? [Emphasis added]
- 2) Is the petition that is the subject of this RDD which was submitted by an authorized body, the Alaska Delegation, in a timely manner as defined in the plain language of ¶507 properly subject to being treated as a late petition by the Commission on the General Conference?

Respectfully submitted,



Lonnie D. Brooks
Secretary

Subject: ¶604.14 PETITION FROM ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE DELEGATION TO GENERAL CONFERENCE 2021

From: LONNIE D BROOKS <lonnieinalaska@gmail.com>

Date: 10/30/2020, 11:07 AM

To: ABBY PARKER HERRERA <aherrera@umcgc.org>, ABBY PARKER HERRERA <petitionsecretary@umcgc.org>, BENNIE GRACE JOJO NABUA <benniegrace@yahoo.com>, "DANIEL P. WILCOX" <danielpwilcox@gmail.com>, FRAN LYNCH <flynch@mtaonline.net>, "GARY W. GRAVES" <ggraves@gcfa.org>, "GARY W. GRAVES" <ggraves@umcgc.org>, "JAMES M. DOEPKEN" <pastorjim@gmail.com>, JO ANNE HAYDEN <hayden@alaskan.net>, KELLY TAZUKO MARCIALES <kellymarciales@gmail.com>, "LISA M. TALBOTT" <lisamarietalbott@gmail.com>

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 30OCT20

TO: GARY GRAVES
ABBY PARKER HERRERA

FM: LONNIE BROOKS

CY: JIM DOEPKEN
JO ANNE HAYDEN
FRAN LYNCH
KELLY MARCIALES
BENNIE GRACE NABUA
LISA TALBOTT
DAN WILCOX

SJ: ¶604.14 Petition from Alaska United Methodist Conference Delegation to General Conference 2021

On behalf of the delegation to General Conference 2021 of the Alaska United Methodist Conference I am sending you a petition that proposes to add a new ¶604.14 to the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*. As provided in the most recent instructions for petitions the petition is provided as an attachment hereto in two separate MS Word documents, one containing the text of the petition, and the second the rationale.

Since General Conference 2021 is currently scheduled to begin on 29Aug21, and petitions may be submitted up through 11Jan21, 230 days prior to the opening session (¶507.5 and following), this petition is timely and formatted as required.

The signatory of record as indicated on the petition is AUMC Delegation Chair, Jo Anne Hayden, but please be advised that the petition is approved, proposed, and submitted by the entire delegation.

Please let us know if you need additional information in order to enter this petition into the process for handling by General Conference 2021.

Regards,

Lonnie

— Attachments: —

01 - DEBATE PROCEDURE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN ANNUAL CONFERENCES_TEXT.docx	38.1 KB
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01 - DEBATE PROCEDURE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN ANNUAL CONFERENCES_RATIONALE.docx	37.8 KB
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Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: Debate Procedure for Constitutional Amendments in Annual Conferences

Discipline Paragraph: 604

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Add a new ¶604.14 as follows:

¶604.14. Proposed Constitutional Amendments in Annual Conferences—As provided in ¶59 of the Constitution it is the duty of each annual conference to provide an opportunity for its members to vote on amendments to the United Methodist Constitution as proposed by the General Conference. In each annual conference prior to conducting such a vote it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to permit at least two speeches in favor of adoption and two speeches in opposition to adoption of each proposed amendment.

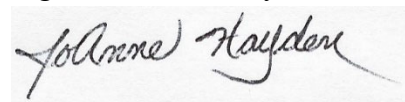
RATIONALE:

As is required at General Conference, a balance of opinion ought to be heard when the primary law of the Church is at issue.

Date: 30Oct20

Submitted by the General Conference Delegation of the Alaska United Methodist Conference

Signature of Primary Petitioner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Anne Hayden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular background.

Identification of Primary Petitioner

Jo Anne Hayden, Lay Delegate, Chair of Delegation, and Member

Anchor Park United Methodist Church

Of Anchorage, Alaska

3604 E. 18th Ave.

Anchorage AK 99508

Phone: 907-903-5025

EMAIL: hayden@alaskan.net

Joined by:

James M. Doepken, Clergy Delegate

Lonnie D. Brooks, First Reserve Lay Delegate

Daniel P. Wilcox, First Reserve Clergy Delegate
Fran Lynch, Reserve Lay Delegate
Lisa M. Talbott, Reserve Clergy Delegate
Kelly Tazuko Marciales, Reserve Lay Delegate
Bennie Grace Nabua, Reserve Clergy Delegate

1021-06 Petitioners' List of Interested Persons

Jo Anne Hayden, Head of Delegation ["Primary Petitioner"]
3604 E. 18th Ave., Anchorage AK 99508

Jo Anne Hayden <hayden@alaskan.net>,
Abby Parker Herrera <aherrera@umcgc.org>,
Abby Parker Herrera <pe onsecretary@umcgc.org>,
Bennie Grace Jojo Nabua <benniegrace@yahoo.com>,
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Lonnie D Brooks <lonnieinalaska@gmail.com>,
Gary W Graves <ggraves@gcfa.org>,
Gary W Graves <ggraves@umcgc.org>,

Petitioners copied these additional people upon the electronic filing of the Petition:

Cynthia Fierro Harvey <enixmore@bellsouth.net>,
Elaine JW Stanovsky <elainejws@comcast.net>,
Elaine JW Stanovsky <bishop@greaternw.org>,
Kenneth H Carter, Jr. <bishop@flumc.org>,
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