

Burundi Annual Conference Request for a Declaratory Decision

The commission set by the Bishop moved a motion on the floor of the Annual Conference session which was addressed to judicial commission on clarification of the questions asked to the Bishop. That through this 5th session Burundi Annual Conference requests a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council under ¶ 2610.2j to answer the following questions:

1. Does Judicial Council Decision 1446, which stipulates January 1, 2023, as the retirement date for "bishops whose sixty-eighth birthday has been reached on or before July 1, 2020," apply to the central conferences?

2. Under ¶ 408.1b and Judicial Council Decision 1446, given that General Conference did not meet in 2020 and has been postponed until 2024, must a bishop who reached the sixty-eighth birthday on or before the date upon which the central conference would have been held in 2020-21 be retired before 2024?

3. Must the central conference colleges of bishops schedule a central conference meeting in 2022 in order to replace those bishops retiring under this provision?

4. Pursuant to question 3 above, should Central Conference 2024 be postponed again, must Burundi be given the go ahead to become an Episcopal Area and elected a Bishop as was passed at General Conference 2016 under the five new Bishop for Africa question?

A decision on the questions posed in this request affects the service of delegates elected to the central conference from Burundi and their ability to elect Bishops to serve in the Africa Central Conference.



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)

Burundi Annual Conference

Name of body authorized to make a Petition (¶ 2610.2): _____

Date of session: July 20-23rd 2022 (month/day/year) Location: Bujumbura

Name of Secretary: Rev NIYARIGIRA LADISLAS

Address: BOX 2883 City: Bujumbura

State/Province: Bujumbura ZIP/Postal Code 22 Country: BURUNDI

Phone: +257 779027783 Fax: N/A E-mail: ladislasniyiragira@gmail.com

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

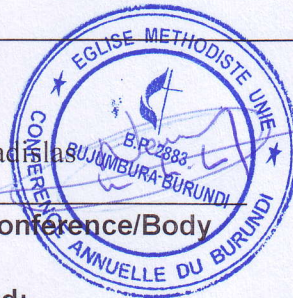
Book of Discipline: para ¶ 2610.2j

Legislation: N/A

Act of General Conference: N/A

Signature: Rev NIYIRAGIRA Ladislas Date: July 22nd, 2022
(month/day/year)

Secretary of the Conference/Body



The following must be attached:

- Text of the written Petition for Declaratory Decision as originally presented

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL COUNCIL DECLARATORY DECISION

I move that the Burundi Annual Conference request a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council under ¶ 2610.2j to answer the following questions:

On Petition: Request to the Judicial Council

The commission set by the Bishop moved a motion on the floor of the Annual Conference session which was addressed to judicial commission on clarification of the questions asked to the Bishop. That through this 5th session Burundi Annual Conference requests a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council under ¶ 2610.2j to answer the following questions:

1. Does Judicial Council Decision 1446, which stipulates January 1, 2023, as the retirement date for “bishops whose sixty-eighth birthday has been reached on or before July 1, 2020,” apply to the central conferences?
2. Under ¶ 408.1b and Judicial Council Decision 1446, given that General Conference did not meet in 2020 and has been postponed until 2024, must a bishop who reached the sixty-eighth birthday on or before the date upon which the central conference would have been held in 2020-21 be retired before 2024?
3. Must the central conference colleges of bishops schedule a central conference meeting in 2022 in order to replace those bishops retiring under this provision?
4. Pursuant to question 3 above, should General Conference 2024 be postponed again, must Burundi be given the go ahead to become an Episcopal Area and elected a Bishop as was passed at General Conference 2016 under the five new Bishop for Africa question?

A decision on the questions posed in this request affects the service of delegates elected to the central conference from Burundi and their ability to elect Bishops to serve in the Africa Central Conference.

Dr Pacis-Alarine IRAMBONA
Youthful Coordinator and Lay Delegate to General Conference
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Phone: +2576875009

- Minutes of proceedings
- List of names and addresses of interested parties, including eu 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: **secretary@umcjudicialcouncil.org**
- Mail thirteen (13) sets of hard copies to:
**UMC Judicial Council, c/o LaNella Smith, Assistant to the J.C. Secretary,
1215 Shady Lane, Durham, NC 27712**

C.C.

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2. Bishop Daniel A. WANDABULA
Presiding & Resident Bishop
East Africa Episcopal Area
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P.O Box 12554, Kampala, Uganda
Phone (256) 414 533978
Fax :(256) 414 533982 Mobile: +256 772 507 173,
Email: bishopeaeaumc@gmail.com

3. Bishop Thomas Bickerton, the president of the Council of Bishops.

Mailing Address

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Email: bishop@nyac.com

Phone Number (s) (914) 615-2221

Fax Number: (914) 615-2246

Minutes 10/July 22nd, 2022: Updates from the Bishop on where things since the postponement of the General Conference and Request to the Judicial Council

On Updates from the Bishop on where things since the postponement of the General Conference

It was an interactive session where delegates had the opportunity to ask questions to the bishop about the ongoing issues in the church globally.

Some of the questions that came up were why the USA Jurisdictions have been granted the permission by the Judicial Council to replace the retired bishops and their request was answered favorably and the reason why the same declaratory decision is not applicable to Africa Central conferences. Delegates came back to the 2016 General Conference decision of adding five more bishops in Africa. And according to the works of the Standing Committee that was put in place, Burundi Annual Conference was among the five annual conferences recommended for becoming an episcopal area. And according to paragraph 2610.2(j), delegates to the annual conference has the right to ask for a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council on the matters and also to send a request to ask if the General Conference is postponed once again in 2024, the Burundi annual conference can be granted an episcopal area. Giving answers to these questions, the bishop set up a commission to go and draft the petition to be sent to the Judicial Council.

On Petition: Request to the Judicial Council

The commission set by the bishop moved a motion on the floor of the Annual Conference session which was addressed to judicial commission on clarification of the questions asked to the bishop. That through this 5th session Burundi Annual Conference requests a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council under ¶ 2610.2j to answer the following questions:

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL COUNCIL DECLARATORY DECISION

I do hereby move that the Burundi Annual conference request for a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council under ¶2610.2j of the Book of Discipline to answer the following questions:

1. Does Judicial Council Decision 1446, which stipulates January 1, 2023, as the retirement date for “bishops whose sixty-eighth birthday has been reached on or before July 1, 2020,” apply to the central conferences?
2. Under ¶ 408.1b and Judicial Council Decision 1446, given that General Conference did not meet in 2020 and has been postponed until 2024, must a bishop who reached the sixty-eighth birthday on or before the date upon which the central conference would have been held in 2020-21 be retired before 2024?
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A decision on the questions posed in this request affects the service of delegates elected to the central conference from Burundi and their ability to elect Bishops to serve in the Africa Central Conference.

This petition was presented by Dr Pacis-Alarine IRAMBONA and after that, the 660 delegates endorsed this petition by 99.7% of the 5th session of the Burundi Annual Conference.