

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL OF:

**DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR
OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

Matter No: _____

Received: _____

Assigned: _____

Instructions: This form must be filed with your original appeal or response to the Judicial Council. The requested information should be clearly printed or typed. If additional space is needed clearly identify the question to which you are responding on your separate sheet(s). When completed, mail this form; your appeal/response; and all attachments, to: **Judicial Council c/o Monice Crawford, Clerk 2900 SE 3RD Street, Topeka, KS 66607 or email to JCAMECLERK@gmail.com**

1. Name:
Address:
C/S/Z:
Email: _____ Tel: _____ Fax: _____
2. State the name and location of your home church (If applicable):
3. State the name of your Pastor (If applicable):
4. State your Annual Conference, Episcopal District and the name of your Presiding Bishop:
Annual Conference:
Episcopal District:
Bishop:
5. Check the category that applies to you:
 Bishop
 General Officer
 Itinerant Preacher Elder Deacon
 Local Preacher Elder Deacon
 Lay Member
 Other [Explain]: _____
6. Are you filing this Petition/Response as an individual on your own behalf? ____YES ____NO
If you answered YES, proceed to question 7. If you answered NO, on a separate sheet of paper, you must respond to the following questions:
 - a. Provide the full identity of the person or entity on whose behalf this petition/response is being filed.
 - b. Describe your relationship to the party on whose behalf you are filing.
 - c. Attach proof that you have the authority to represent this person(s)/entity in this matter.
 - d. If you are an attorney, provide your full name, firm name, the name of your licensing entity and your license identification number for the same.
7. State the **nature of this appeal**. Attach a copy of any written decision. (Check all that apply).
 Final decision of Bishops ruling or decision

- Final decision of Annual Conference
- Final decision of regularly constituted Board, Commission, group or other party
- Trial court's decision
- Final action of a conference or connectional board
- Request for a Declaratory Decision.

***NOTE: If you are seeking declaratory relief, the “Declaratory Relief Addendum” must be filed as an attachment to this Cover Sheet or your filing will be rejected.**

8. Were efforts made to resolve this matter prior to the filing of the appeal? yes no
 Is this matter current before any civil authority? yes no

If yes, describe the efforts made and the outcome. If conciliation was required in your matter, (pursuant to p.460, Part XVI. Judicial Administration, Section 1 of the 2021 *Book of Discipline*) provide the date of the conciliation, and the outcome. (Attach additional pages as needed)

9. What do you want the Judicial Council to do in your matter? (Check all that apply.):

- Reverse a decision/ruling
- Modify a decision/ruling
- Declaratory decision

***NOTE: The Judicial Council is an Appeals Court. It has NO authority to grant monetary relief or change the assignment of a Pastor.**

10. On a separate sheet of paper, fully explain the basis of your appeal/response. You should have at least two separate headings. The first should be captioned “**Relief Requested**” and must explain in detail your answer to No. 9 above. The second heading should read “**Facts and Allegations**” and must describe the circumstances giving cause to your appeal and stating why the Judicial Council should grant the relief you are requesting. Each paragraph should be separately numbered. All documents attached to your appeal must be labeled in the top left corner with a numeric value (i.e., Exhibit 1). Witness statements shall be submitted under penalty of perjury and shall contain the name, address, and signature of the witness.

CERTIFICATION

I, [printed name] _____, declare under penalty of perjury that all of the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I further declare under penalty of perjury that on [date] _____, I sent copies of my appeal along with this Cover Sheet and all attachments, via U.S. mail (or its equivalent outside the U.S.), first class, postage prepaid, to the Respondent(s)/Petitioner(s).

Dated: _____

Signature of Petitioner/Respondent

DECLARATORY RELIEF ADDENDUM

The Judicial Council can issue declaratory decisions under limited circumstances described on pages 527-528, paragraphs 10 -12 of the 2021 *Book of Discipline*. Your answers to the following questions will help determine whether declaratory relief can be

1. Using the most current Book of Discipline, please provide the reference(s) (section, page, paragraph number(s) for the legislation you believe is subject to more than one interpretation OR of doubtful meaning or application.

2. Describe the “action of any conference, connectional board, or ruling of a bishop based upon an act of legislation which appears to be subject to more than one interpretation” from which you are appealing. Include the date the decision was made; the identity of the person/entity making the final determination; and exactly what was decided.

3. Explain how you are affected by the decision described in number 2 above.

4. Describe how you believe the legislation should be interpreted and provide any supporting documentation for your interpretation.

5. Read pp. 527-528, paragraph 11 carefully. Provide the names of all persons and entities that will be directly affected by the decision. Remember that you must also serve them with copies of your filing.
