



*Confessing Jesus Christ as
Son, Savior and Lord!*

Judicial Council Ruling Upholds Church Law

In the case of the election of Bishop Karen Oliveto as a Bishop and, who is a woman “married” to another woman. The Judicial Council held that:

- A self-avowed, practicing homosexual cannot be consecrated a bishop.
- A same-sex marriage license issued by competent civil authorities together with the clergy person’s status in a same-sex relationship is a public declaration that a person is a self-avowed, practicing homosexual.
- An openly homosexual and partnered bishop is in violation of the minimum standards established by the General Conference for clergy, including a commitment to abide by and uphold the Church’s definition of marriage and stance on homosexuality.

Bishops and clergy persons who actively participate in the consecration of a bishop who has been found to be a self-avowed, practicing homosexual may be charged with disobedience.

However, the ruling continues.

Self-avowal does not nullify the consecration and cause removal from the episcopal office. Rather it is a sufficient declaration to subject the bishop’s ministerial office to review. Such a declaration may not ignore such a declaration and a complaint must be filed against such an individual. The person may remain in office while the review is conducted. The person is entitled to all fair process rights.

The bottom line is that Karen Oliveto remains a bishop of the church with her status in her ministerial office being under review. Complaints pending against her are to be processed according to the Discipline.

The Confessing Movement urges the Western Jurisdiction to act quickly, without any delay to comply with the Judicial Council decision regarding all complaints filed against Bishop Karen Oliveto.

Regarding the Oliveto Case

The Confessing Movement calls upon the Western Jurisdiction to immediately comply with the Judicial Council decision. Failure to do so would further erode the unity in The United Methodist Church and add to the distrust that already exists.

We have been saddened by the disobedience that occurs within The United Methodist Church. Further, the action of the Western Jurisdiction is a clear indication that we are a divided church.

Please be in prayer for the future of The United Methodist Church.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2017

UMC BISHOPS CALL SPECIAL SESSION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR 2019

WASHINGTON, D.C. _ The Council of Bishops (COB) has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

In announcing the call, COB President Bishop Bruce R. Ough said the Special Session will be held in accordance with Division Two - Section II - Article II of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church as recorded in Paragraph ¶14 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016).

The purpose of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference will be “limited to receiving and acting on a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward,” which was created by action of the 2016 General Conference.

The 32-member Commission was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge to lead the church forward amid the impasse related to homosexuality. The Commission’s task includes ex-

amining paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

Per the Constitution of the Church, the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the 2016 General Conference or their legal successors or alternates, except when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election.

The Secretary of the General Conference will communicate with annual conference secretaries regarding updated delegate information, seating of reserve delegates, and the issuance of new certificates of election for annual conferences choosing to hold new elections.

The Commission on the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference will develop and forward additional information regarding the logistics of the special session of General Conference at the appropriate time.

“The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Commission on a Way Forward and the Special Session of General Conference,” Bishop Ough said.

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Rev. Keith Boyette

WCA President Named

The Reverend Keith Boyette Pastor of Wilderness Community Church which he founded has been named President of the Wesleyan Covenant Association. The General Conference elected Rev. Boyette to the Judicial Council for an eight year term. Members of the Judicial Council elected him secretary. Keith was a practicing attorney when he was called to ministry. He has numerous skills that will be an asset to the WCA.

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