





































































































































































































































































## VII Legislation

should be given so that the pool includes persons representative of racial, age, ethnic, and gender diversity.

4. Counsel for the Church shall be a bishop or another clergy-person in full connection.

5. The secretary of the court shall at the conclusion ...

6. A bishop suspended from office shall have claim ...

The amended ¶ 2712 would then read as follows:

### ¶ 2712. *Trial of a Bishop*

1. The president of the Council\_of Bishops—or in case the person charged is the president, the secretary of the council—shall proceed to convene the court under the provisions of ¶ 2709.

2. The president of the Council\_of Bishops (or in the case the person charged is the president, the secretary) may preside or designate another bishop to serve as presiding officer.

3. The trial shall be convened as provided in ¶ 2709 with the pool of thirty-five or more persons to consist of district superintendents whose names are drawn by lot by the president (secretary) of the Council of Bishops from each jurisdictional or central conference in numbers proportional to the professing membership of each conference, with a minimum of one superintendent from each jurisdictional or central conference. Special consideration should be given so that the pool includes persons representative of racial, age, ethnic, and gender diversity.

4. Counsel for the Church shall be a bishop or another clergy-person in full connection.

5. The secretary of the court shall at the conclusion ...

6. A bishop suspended from office shall have claim ...

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2015 session of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby charges its Conference Secretary, because of the fifty-word limit that has been imposed on the printed rationales in the public listings of General Conference petitions, to include with this petition the following rationale: "This legislation brings harmony and clarity called for in Judicial Decision 1275, ' In summary, the Judicial Council notes that there are portions of ¶413 that lack clarity and which, in fact, give contradictory processes...There would be value if a future General Conference harmonized this paragraph."

Nancy Denardo, Member Port Vue UMC

Robert Zilhaver, Lakeside UMC