

JUDICIAL COUNCIL RULING

The Judicial Council released its decision concerning a request for a ruling of law on the 2009 Early Retirement Incentive Program. The Council ruled that the request was germane. The Council further ruled that the Annual Conference cannot delegate its authority to any other body, and that the Core Leadership Team lacked the authority to make such a decision.

The Annual Conference must make decisions concerning conference clergy support after a recommendation from CF&A even if funds are not drawn from apportioned funds. A copy of the full decision is found on the Texas Annual Conference website at www.txcumc.org/ruleoflaw613.

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie said, "I'm grateful that this matter has been resolved. This prompt ruling will allow our conference to address the concerns raised by the Judicial Council regarding the inter-relationships of our structure. It allows us to move forward in a timely manner.

"In order to address key issues in the decision, I will be asking the appropriate bodies to make recommendations on two specific items for consideration at this Annual Conference. First, the CF&A will be requested to make a recommendation regarding pensions and benefits. Second, CLT will be requested to make a recommendation regarding the role of the bishop on CLT. In light of this decision, there will be additional consideration regarding the role and authority of various annual conference bodies during this next year."

The Judicial Council did not require that the Texas Annual Conference return to the Council for its approval concerning any structural issues.