

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
GENERAL OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION
Judicial Council

JURISDICTION

- a) The Council shall have appellate function.
- b) The Council shall not have original jurisdiction, since the decisions are declaratory and final in the interim of the General Conference.
- c) The council is amenable to the General Conference, and any decision of the Council may be reversed or modified by the General Conference in regular or special session.

DUTIES

The duties of the council shall be:

- a) To study faithfully and earnestly the laws and rules governing *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*.
- b) To hear and make declaratory judgments when petitioned to do so when any law is subject to more than one interpretation or any paragraph in *The Book of Discipline* is of doubtful meaning. Any person in good and regular standing of *The A.M.E. Zion Church* can petition the Judicial Council for such a judgment. The council's decision is final, unless revised or reversed by the General Conference.
- c) To hear the appeal and determine any appeal from a Bishop's decision on a question or ruling made in an Annual Conference on some positive law which affects some substantial rights of the one(s) making the appeal.
- d) The Judicial Council shall not have the right to interfere, in any way, with the right of a Bishop to appoint, assign, transfer, or remove Pastors as set forth in the book of discipline nor with the right of a Bishop to administer *The Discipline of The A. M. E. Zion Church*.
- e) To hear and determine an appeal of a Bishop when taken from the decision of a trial court.
- f) To hear and determine an appeal from an Elder when taken from the decision of a trial court.

MEMBERSHIP: (Composition)

The Judicial Council shall be composed of nine (9) members and nine (9) alternates of whom five (5) shall be clergy and four (4) laypersons.

- a) At least three (3) of the members shall be attorneys and/or judges and members in Full connection in *The A. M. E. Zion Church*.
- b) The members of the Judicial Council shall be elected by the General Conference in the same manner as Trustees of Livingstone College are elected. Each of the constituencies shall comprise a nominating committee i.e., Bishop, lay, and the Lay Council. The nominating committee shall nominate fifteen (15) members and fifteen alternates. The General Conference shall elect nine (9). A majority vote is required for election.
- c) Nominations may be made from the floor of the General Conference (recommending to change this process to the vetting process being proposed).

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ELIGIBILITY

- a) Any Elder in *The A. M. E. Zion Church* who is at least 35 years of age, shall be considered eligible for election to membership of the Council.
- b) Any Lay person who is 35 years of age and who has been in full connection in *The A. M. E. Zion Church* eight (8) years shall be considered eligible for membership of the council.
- c) Members shall be elected for a term of four years. They may be reelected. The term limit is set at a maximum of eight (8) years.
- d) Members of the Council shall not be eligible for membership in the General Conference nor the Connectional Council, thus they may not serve on any Administrative Boards or hold any other elected or appointed position in the General Church.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND VITALITY

Must meet all the biblical qualifications for church leadership. They will need seasoned faith and maturity as demonstrated by many years of consistent and faithful Christian living and service.

PERSONAL MATURITY AND MINISTRY-CONGRUENT CHARACTER

Must be emotionally healthy, resilient, constructive, and wise, demonstrating the personal qualities that mark strong leadership and durability. They will require strong interpersonal skills and should be recognized as a servant-leader, be outgoing and friendly.

FAMILY ALIGNMENT

It is essential that the Judicial Council member be able to balance wisely the responsibilities of home and work.

MINISTRY CALLING AND GIFTING

Should be able to verbalize a sense of God-given calling to vocation. They must have gifts that are strategic to the fulfillment of the position description: leadership, administration, and teaching.