



PROPOSED LEGISLATION FORM

Date: _____

Person submitting Bill: Bill Dickens

District: 5th Conference: Pacific Northwest

Address: _____

Ph. _____ E-mail: _____

1. Check the appropriate response. Prior Bill; Newly Proposed Legislation
2. Check all that apply. This bill has been reviewed, discussed and is supported at the following levels:

Local Church Lay Organization	District of the Annual Conference Lay Organization	Conference Lay Organization	Episcopal District Lay Organization
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3. Complete the following

BILL NO.	Leave Blank
TITLE	Filling a Vacant Office In the Episcopacy
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Page 117, Section II. Local Church Organization, Paragraph B subparagraph 1(Filling Vacancies)
INTENT	To fully implement the process of filling a vacant Bishop's office by death, expulsion or resignation, if no active Bishop is available, by General Conference delegates voting for the successor in a special election and not the Council of Bishops selecting the successor.
RATIONALE	The 2013 decision by the Council of Bishops to fill the vacancy on the Episcopal Bench, created by the untimely death of Bishop Sarah F. Davis, resulted in a current Bishop presiding over two Episcopal Districts. A Bishop presiding over two Episcopal Districts

fosters managerial inefficiency given the scope and complexity of duties for the Episcopal Office and circumvents church law requiring a special election as specified in paragraph B, subparagraph 1& 2 for filling vacancies, page 117.

4. Existing Legislation now reads: (Quote applicable portion of current legislation; Include rationale for the change.) If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page identified as “No. 4 continued”.

1. If by death, resignation or expulsion there should be no one to exercise the episcopal office, an extra session of the General Conference shall be called at once, according to the provisions as set forth in the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
2. The said extra session to the General Conference shall proceed to fill the vacancies in the episcopacy, using the same mode of election as prescribed for a regular session of the General Conference.

5. Proposed NEW wording (by article, section, and subsection). If more space is needed, continue on a separate page identified as “No. 5 continued”.

1. If by death, resignation or expulsion there should be no one to exercise the episcopal office, an extra session of the General Conference shall be called at once, according to the provisions as set forth in the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Under no circumstances shall the succession process be determined by the appointment of a current Bishop resulting in his/her assignment consisting of multiple Episcopal duties.
2. **This extra session shall consist of a mail ballot process to fill the vacancies, instructing that one (1) out of the top three (3) candidates left on the initial ballot at the previous General Conference be certified as eligible for election. The process must be completed within 90 days of the start of the process.**

Cost: This proposed legislation will have a modest financial impact on the General Church Budget. The impact consists of the production of the special ballot and delegates submitting their

ballots by certified mail to the Chief Information Officer (CIO). See the table below.

Fixed Production Cost	Variable Production Cost	Total Special Ballot Costs
Paper Optical Ballot =\$1,000	2,000 Delegates @ \$.2/ballot = \$400.00	
Rental of Ballot Reader =\$200	Certified Mail for 2,000 Delegates = \$20,000.00	
Total Fixed Cost = \$1,200	Total Variable Costs = \$20,400	Fixed + Variable Cost = \$21,600

The ballot production (optical-scan) cost for 2,000 delegates is approximately \$1,000. The certified mail cost would be approximately \$20,000. This mail cost would cover the cost of ballot delivery to the delegate and the delegate returning the ballot to the CIO.