

This is a text taken from the photos of the above letter.

“Dear United Methodists of the Liberia Annual Conference, the Christian community in Liberia, and the entire Liberian citizenry, I bring you greetings of peace and joy in the name of our Savior and Lord, Christ Jesus.

I write this communication to address a false and misleading press release that is in the Wednesday 30 October edition of the Frontpage Africa Newspaper (Vol. 17 No. 209), that is already trending within the global space on the internet. This press release claims to be "A joint solidarity statement to the membership of the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church by the Retired Bishops of Liberia Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church" Among several things, the writer of the false press release asserts,

"We endorse the 2020/2024

General Conference decision to approve Worldwide Regionalization", that the worldwide regionalization "empowers us to tailor our ministries, missions and worships to our unique context, developing regional resources that reflect our needs and circumstances". This is a lie. I know nothing about this joint press release.

The "Regionalization Plan" was one of several legislations passed at the recent General Conference. According to its proponents, it aims to restructure the worldwide UMC Denomination into regions so that each region can do ministry, mission and worship based on its own culture and context. The General Conference concluded by saying that each annual conference has a period of eighteen (18) months to discuss and vote on whether or not to ratify the "Regionalization Plan" As this point, the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church has not yet met to discuss and take a vote regarding its ratification.

I want all United Methodists of the Liberia Annual Conference, in and outside of Liberia, to know that I cannot and will not support the "Regionalization Plan" that has not yet been discussed, approved, and accepted by our church. Besides, I am aware of the history of several failed attempts by some within our worldwide connection to regionalize the worldwide UMC, dating as far back to about two decades ago. Now that this proposed "Regionalization Plan" is causing chaos and confusion within the UMC in Liberia, my prayer and hope is that Bishop Quire will see reason to let the UMC in Liberia determine its own future.

The false press release that carries a fraudulent signature of mine also claims, "We stand in solidarity with Bishop Samuel Jerome Quire, Jr". This is also lie. I did not write this statement neither do I know anything about it. I served the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for twenty (20) years as its Episcopal leader (1980-2000). Like

any leader, I had my challenging times. During those times, I listened to the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, in addition to the counsel of godly men and women to deal with the challenges. Consequently, God enabled me to navigate the challenges and I led successfully until my retirement. As a Bishop of the UMC at the time, I knew that I was not & member of the Liberia Annual Conference, according to our constitution. It was therefore not my place to make any decisions on behalf of the church. The church has always addressed all of its issues within the Annual Conference gatherings through its delegates, as no bishop has the authority to make any decisions on behalf of the church prior to the Annual Conference making the decision.

Since the end of the postponed 2020 General Conference, I have encouraged our Resident Bishop, Bishop Quire to have a meeting with the church and let them have a say about all the new decisions the General Conference made that border on their view of the Holy Bible and their faith in Jesus Christ. However, Bishop Quire has refused my counsel. Therefore, on the current issue, I do not stand in solidarity with Bishop Samuel Jerome Quire, Jr., as the purported press release claims I will continue to pray for Bishop Quire's leadership and hope that he does the right thing and save the United Methodist Church from the chaos and confusion it finds itself. While I await the Frontpage Africa News Paper to reveal the source of its press release, I call upon all United Methodists in Liberia to be prayerful in dealing with the current crisis that has engulfed our church over the issue of human sexuality and the "Regionalization Plan". I am confident that God deliver God's church from this impasse.

Blessings,

Bishop Arthur Kulah