



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
UNITED METHODIST UNIVERSITY
508-C-17 Centennial Area, Ashmun Street
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia



Office of the Vice President Telephone: +231770-442448/+231886-520-399
Email: jerry.kulah@gmail.com/jerry.kulah@umu.edu.lr

26 November 2024

Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr.
Resident Bishop
Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church
12th Street Sinkor, Monrovia

Dear Bishop Quire:

REF: My Response to your Letter of Suspension

Advent greetings and best wishes to you in the name of Christ Jesus, our Chief Shepherd and Judge of all humanity.

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of suspension to me, dated 22 November 2024. Your letter of suspension reads, "You are herewith suspended indefinitely from all ministerial functions, including teaching, counseling, preaching, and making representation for and on behalf of the United Methodist Church with immediate effect pending the outcome of the judicial process, consistent with the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline, 2016". Your letter further states that, "Your immediate suspension is based on a letter of complaint filed against you by the Interim Church Counsel on allegations that your conduct over the past months stands in violation of the UMC Book of Discipline".

I wish to inform you that your letter of suspension is hereby rejected, and I will not submit myself to any purported interim board of ordained ministry, based on complaints filed against me by Rev. Caleb S. G. Dormah, Director, At Risk Youth-LAC/UMC, and Rev. Momoh Kpaan, as contained in the letter of complaint. My rejection of your letter of suspension is based on the following counts:

1. **The leaders of your interim board are parties to the ongoing conflict within the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (LAC/UMC), and your appointment of them is unconstitutional, according to the 2016 Book of Discipline of the UMC (para. 635, pp.471-472).** Your action to dismiss members of the legitimately elected Board of Ordained Ministry by the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is illegal. Your action contravenes the “Decision Number 971” of the Judicial Council Ruling on dismissing any member of the Board of Ordain Ministry by a resident bishop and replacing them with other people.

The Judicial Council, which is the Supreme Court and chief arbiter of the worldwide UMC, passed this decision on October 23, 2003. According to the Judicial Council, “The only authority of a resident bishop of any annual conference with reference to the Board of Ordained ministry is to nominate members of the board after proper consultation as outlined in [para 635(a) of the 2016] Discipline”.

Paragraph 635 states, “Each annual conference at the first session following the General Conference, shall **elect** for a term of four years a Board of Ordained Ministry”. Regarding the role of a resident bishop, paragraph 365 (a) states, “Members shall be nominated by the presiding bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board, the executive committee, or a committee elected by the previous quadrennium and with the cabinet” (BOD, 2016, P.471). Following the Bishop’s nomination and the holding of relevant consultations, members of the board are then elected to serve until the end of the quadrennial. Accordingly, the current quadrennium ends on 31 December 2024. Therefore, at our forthcoming annual conference session scheduled for 11-16 February 2025, the nomination and election of new members of the Board of Ordained Ministry will be properly in place.

In early June 2024, when the Board of Ordained Ministry met with you to plead with you to call for the “Special Session of the LAC/UMC” as was agreed at the seat of our 191st annual session held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County from 12-18 2024, you rejected the appeal. Following that meeting, you decided to dismiss Rev. Dr. George D. Wilson as Head of the Board since he was not willing to support your “Regionalization Plan”, and your endorsement of all the vices that the General Conference had passed. Those vices included the legalization of same-sex marriage, ordination, and consecration of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and queer persons as pastors and bishops in the UMC, and the change in the biblical definition of marriage, among others. You went ahead and dismissed him along with all members of the Board who had also disagreed with you.

Bishop Quire, with all due respect to your episcopal leadership, you have proceeded wrongly. Therefore, your action to dismiss members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and replace them with an interim board was a gross violation of our church law. You do not have the authority to do so. Hence, I refuse to submit myself to your purported interim board.

Secondly, the current head of your interim board, Rev. Blidi Nimely, along with Rev. Caleb Dormah, Rev. Momoh Kpaan, Rev. Joel Gould, Rev. Roland Clark, and several others carried out a demonstration and protest against my leadership of the Liberian Delegation to the recent 2020/2024 General Conference of the UMC, held in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the compounds of the LAC/UMC Central Office on 12th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, on 25 April 2024.

During the demonstration, Rev. Caleb Dormah delivered a press statement to the public. In the press statement, Rev. Dormah defamed my character, and alleged that I was a member of the Global Methodist Church which he claims was a “gay denomination”. The following day, 26 April 2024, the FrontPage Newspaper carried the story of the demonstration and the content of the press conference.

Members of our delegation in Charlotte were deeply concerned that Rev. Caleb Dormah and his group were not only smearing hard-earned character, but they were taking the issues of the church into the public glare. I immediately lodged a complaint to you at the General Conference. You said that you did not know about what was going on, and that upon your return to Liberia, you would investigate the matter. Until today, you have done nothing about it.

That was just one of four complaints I have made to you regarding Rev. Dormah's lies about me. You've always said, "Caleb is looking for relevance. Do not mind him. Let us not dignify his statements". Yet, you have the audacity to give credence to a complaint made against me by Rev. Caleb Dormah and to use it as a basis for suspending me. This is unfortunate. Your action clearly demonstrates that you have been responsible for all of the lies and misinformation Rev. Dormah has been writing about me and the very good people of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) from 2022 to present.

2. **Your acquiescence of Rev. Dormah's false allegations against me is a witch-hunt and a calculated attempt to smear my Christ-centered character and subject me to public ridicule.** However, the Almighty God who is our ultimate Judge will fight my battle, convinced of the scriptural truth that, "No weapon forged against [me] will prevail, and [I] will refute every tongue that accuses me" (Isaiah 54:17).

(a) From 2022 to present, I have complained Rev. Dormah to you on four occasions about lies he has been writing about me in various chatrooms and in the print media, that you are aware of. You have done nothing to address my complaints. Among other things, Rev. Dormah told the public that the Global Methodist Church (GMC) was a "gay denomination" with whom I was affiliating. By implication, I was supporting gay practices in the UMC in Liberia. Yet, at the recent General Conference, I was among evangelical African leaders who contended for the faith and spoke out against the liberals' and progressives' LGBTQ agenda for the

worldwide UMC Denomination. The video clip of me defending the biblical definition of marriage as opposed to the new definition of marriage coined by the UMC to promote same-sex marriage, that is trending the social media since the end of the 2020/2024 General Conference is a sufficient vindication of me against the lies of Rev. Dormah.

Some of Rev. Dorman's lies included the allegations that the GMC had given me millions of dollars and that I was constructing the headquarters of the GMC in my village, in Boway, Bong County. That I brought twenty-one (21) GMC members in the country to attend the 89th annual session of the Liberia Annual Conference in 2022, but he demanded you to send them away and you did. You made no comments about his allegations, thus, giving the public the impression that his allegations were true.

(b) At the seat of our recent annual conference, Rev. Dormah put up a tent in support of the "**Be UMC, Stay UMC**" Movement in the United States, representing them as the Director. Many elders of our church and I complained Rev. Dormah to you and noted that his action was wrong because there were no ongoing conversations among us as to whether some members were leaving and others staying within the denomination, as was the case in the United States, following the passage of the paragraph 2553 that granted permission to some local congregations to leave the denomination if they wanted to. In the presence of the entire Annual Conference, you publicly instructed Rev. Dormah to take down the tent, but he defiled you with impunity. This is the same person who has written lies about me and you are using it as a basis to suspend me. Wow!

(c) In early April of this year, prior to leading our team to the 2020/2024 General Conference, Rev. Dormah wrote a complaint against me on a letterhead bearing "Be UMC, Stay UMC", presenting himself as the Director in Liberia.

After all that Rev. Dormah had done to me about which you had taken no action, you, Bishop Quire, had the audacity to invite me to your office on Friday, 5 April 2024, and handed me the complaint, and wanted me to respond to it. It was then that I realized that you were in support of Rev. Dormah's actions and that he was simply carrying out your instructions, aimed at getting at me so that you might find reasons to silence me from participating in major decisions of our Conference, including my representation of the Liberia Annual Conference as Head of Delegation at both the General and Central Conferences. In that meeting with you, I spoke plainly about how I felt about your action. Therefore, your current decision against me based on a complaint from Rev. Dormah is no surprise. You have set up Rev. Dormah to attempt to smear my good character. However, the Almighty God remains our Judge. He will vindicate me, and the world will know the truth.

I will now speak directly to each count made against me by Rev. Caleb Dormah and Rev. Momoh Kpaan of your purported Interim Church Counsel and the Interim Board of Ordained Ministry. My purpose is to elucidate the futility of each of these counts.

1. **“Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah works as a Coordinator for the Global Methodist Church (GMC), Mt. Horeb Global Methodist Church, a group that has broken away from the United Methodist Church since May, 2022.”**

Rev. Dormah has written this count against me out of his ignorance of the relationship that persists between the Mt. Horeb Methodist Church and the Liberia Annual Conference of the UMC. This is not strange as Rev. Dormah has not served in any significant leadership role, including serving as a local pastor in the Liberia Annual Conference for more than a decade.

However, if Caleb is unaware of happenings between the LAC/UMC and Mt. Horeb Church, not so with Bishop Quire. I am therefore shocked and surprised that you, Bishop Quire would give credence to such a count to necessitate my suspension.

For the sake of the public, Mt. Horeb Methodist Church, formerly a member of the UMC Denomination, based in Lexington, South Carolina is now a member of the

Global Methodist Church since December 2023, not since May, 2022, as alleged by Rev. Dormah. Mr. Mr. Jeff Jernigan, a very good friend of mine introduced me to the Reverend Jeff Kersey, Senior Pastor of the Mt. Horeb UMC, at the time, in 2019. Rev. Kersey contacted me and we talked about ministry. I invited Pastor Jeff, as he is commonly called, to Liberia in 2019 to join me train pastors of the UMC in Gbarnga, Bong County. He accepted and came over.

During the training, I took him and Associate Pastor, Trevor Miller who accompanied him on the trip to meet with Bishop Quire and his Cabinet, who were meeting in Gbarnga at the time. Eventually Bishop Quire and the Mt. Horeb Church entered into a partnership relationship. Bishop Quire visited the Mt. Horeb Church. The church sent one of its Agriculture Specialist to Liberia to assess our needs in the hope of offering some support to our agricultural program. The specialist worked with Rev. Joseph Theoway, Director of Agriculture of the LAC/UMC for about two weeks to explore our agricultural programs. To enhance the relationship, Bishop Quire, as Chair of the Board of Directors of the UMU, conferred an honorary doctorate degree on the senior pastor of Mt. Horeb church during the 2020 commencement convocation of the United Methodist University.

This partnership relationship has been ongoing between the LAC/UMC and the Mt. Horeb Church prior to the implementation of the paragraph 2553 that permitted local churches in the USA to disaffiliate from the UMC if in good conscience they did not want to continue their affiliation with it, due to the challenges of human sexuality that has engulfed the denomination. Because of the prevailing crisis over human sexuality that we are, dealing with today, the Mt. Horeb Church disaffiliated from the UMC in December 2023. Their disaffiliation from the UMC did not affect our partnership with them.

Now, if Rev. Caleb Dormah and the Interim Church Counsel are ignorant of the existing information and facts regarding the relationship between our Annual Conference and the Mt. Horeb, why would Bishop Quire, who knows all the details

of this partnership give credence to such fallacy from Rev. Domah as a basis for suspending me? Why would you, Bishop Quire, want to subject me to public ridicule for a kindness I did by introducing our Annual Conference to a partnership that has benefitted our Annual Conference, and our United Methodist University so immensely?

Because of our partnership relationship with the Mt. Horeb Church, they donated financial gift to the UMU in 2020 during the COVID-19 crisis. They are sponsoring seven (7) students in the Master's program at UMU, and one undergrad student. The Missions team of Mt. Horeb makes annual visits to Liberia and carries out missional, medical and educational programs in Boway, and surrounding villages in Bong County. They have constructed two bridges in Bong County to enable some of our poor and impoverished farmers to access the markets with their produce, something that has been impossible for many decades. They are constructing homes for widows and widowers and transforming the lives of our people both spiritually and physically. Following their evaluation of our agriculture programs, plans are under way to contribute to transforming the 500 acres of farmland the church has in Gbason Town, Sinoe County. The UMU has had a series of consultations with Mt. Horeb Church on this matter.

If God has graciously enabled me to connect our annual conference to such a partnership relationship, is it a reason for the Bishop to suspend me? Should I, in good conscience submit myself to such a suspension that is notably motivated by envy, deception, fabricated lies? I cannot.

2. **“Dr. Kulah is the Coordinator of a project funded by Mt. horeb Church...His private ventures named and style, Boway Development Association (BDA), partners dedicates over 234k worth of project in Bong County, 2024”.**

Boway is the village of my birth in Bong County. As a Child of God, I feel it is my obligation to both share the gospel with my family and citizens of my village, as well as contribute to transforming their lives from abject poverty. The Scripture is

clear, *“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”* (1 Timothy 5:8). Why should the church that I have served devotedly and committedly for almost three decades persecute me for returning to my village with the holistic gospel of Jesus Christ to transform the lives of my people who have been languishing in abject poverty? Is this a reason for Bishop Quire to suspend me? Did I stop Rev. Caleb Dormah from building relationships with others to assist his people, if he ever cares to do so? As a connectional church, when last did we begin to put restrictions on members building relationships with other people for the common good? I have no regrets about taking the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ to my people who are in desperate need of salvation from a holistic perspective.

3. **“Dr. Kulah is a member of the Global Council of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA)”**. I am not only a member, but I am a founding member of the WCA in 2016 in Chicago, Illinois, USA, and the leader representing West Africa. The WCA was established to encourage individuals, families and congregations who were leaving the UMC due to its drift from biblical Christianity to a kind of cultural Christianity, to stay on. This was done in the hope that following the decision of the General Church at its Special Session of the General Conference in 2019 to remain a biblically committed, evangelical/traditional church, the denomination would remain committed to the faith, doctrine and discipline with which it first started. The formation of the WCA was many years before the worldwide UMC decided to legalize same-sex relationships and change the biblical definition of marriage, to include relationships between any two consenting adults in 2024.

Because of my relationship with Bible-believing Christians who make up the WCA, God has enabled me to assist several pastors in our annual conference to pursue their master's and doctoral studies. Some have graduated and others are still studying. The testimony is there! They are all making meaningful contributions to the life and ministries of the LAC/UMC. I will maintain their privacy by not

mentioning their names in this response. What makes it a crime that I affiliate with evangelical Wesleyan Christians? Is this a reason for Bishop Quire to suspend me? I doubt.

4. **“Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah over the months...has been the prime person inciting people, including zoogos, Street venders against the United Methodist Church”**. I am an advocate for biblical Christianity. I preach, teach and encourage disciples of Jesus Christ to contend for the faith that was once entrusted to the saints (Jude 3). I do not incite people to do the wrong things. I am not associated with Zoogos for the wrong reasons, and I have never been. I have led counseling teams from the Graduate School to West Point, Logan Town, Center Street, and other ghettos to minister the gospel and feed some of our at-risk youths. As an Evangelist, it is my joy to share my faith.

5. **“The Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah continues to allow ‘Suspended Ministers,’ in persons of Rev. Dr. Julius YZK Williams, and Rev. Dr. George D. Wilson, Jr., to teach courses at the Bishop John G. Innis Graduate and Professional Studies”**.

It is very unfortunate that Bishop Quire would decide to negatively affect the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at the UMU by suspending professors in the middle of the semester because they disagree with his plans to endorse same-sex marriage and other unorthodox practices that the worldwide UMC Denomination has passed as laws. I had appealed to the Bishop to reconsider his decision because his action was tantamount to an academic crime against innocent students who had paid their tuition and fees and had every right to be taught adequately. That it would be disruptive for them to have new professors to replace their current professors in the middle of the semester.

Bishop Quire rejected my appeal and insisted that the professors should discontinue teaching at the University. With a heavy heart, I enforced the Bishop’s decision. Since 2nd November, both Dr. Wilson and Dr. Williams ceased teaching

at the university. Currently, the students are without instructors, awaiting the Administration of UMU to employ professors to replace their dismissed professors.

6. **“The Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah again unilaterally invited “Suspended Minister” (Rev. Dr. George Wilson, Jr.) to participate in the discussion of the West Africa Central Conference meeting of delegation, November 20, 2024”.**

There is no constitutional provision that supports this allegation. Rev. Dr. George D. Wilson is a duly elected delegate of the Liberia Annual Conference to both the 2020/2024 General Conference and the 2024 West Africa Central Conference. No internal issues, including suspension from his job and pastoral responsibilities by the Bishop can bar him from representing the Liberia Annual Conference that elected him.

While the Book of Discipline may not speak specifically to the issue of a duly elected delegate who has been suspended by his bishops to participate in a General or Central Conference, we have precedence cases. In 2008, I was serving as District Superintendent of the Monrovia District. I had the privilege of serving as the chief host of the Central Conference that convened in Liberia that year to elect a bishop for the Sierra Leone Annual Conference.

Prior to the Central Conference, the bishop of the Sierra Leone Annual Conference at the time, the late Bishop Joseph Humpher, had some issues with some of the elected delegates from Sierra Leone and suspended them. In the abuse of his episcopal power, he took off the names of the delegates he had suspended in the Sierra Leone Annual Conference from the official listing of the Sierra Leonean delegates and replaced them. However, upon their arrival in Liberia, the presiding Bishop over the elections from the Council of Bishops demanded that the official delegates that Bishop Humpher had removed and replaced be reinstated before the elections could proceed. We watched him do so in great shame and embarrassment.

Similarly, in 2016, Bishop John G. Innis of Liberia suspended the youth representative who was duly elected by the Liberia Annual Conference to the 2016 General Conference. Because of his suspension, Bishop Innis attempted to bar him from attending the General Conference. Again, the Commission on General Conference ruled the Bishop's action out of order and reinstated Fredrick Sayeh since he was duly elected by his annual conference.

Since the Bishop, Samuel Quire is not a member of the Liberia Annual Conference and was not involved in the process of electing its delegates, irrespective of any internal issues the bishop may have with any of the Conference official delegates to both General and Central Conference, the Bishop cannot stop Rev. Dr. Wilson or any other official delegates from representing the Liberia Annual Conference at the 2024 West Africa Central Conference in Accra, Ghana. Therefore, this allegation is baseless and has no constitutional backing.

7. **“Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah escorted “Suspended Ministers” in persons of Rev. Leo T. Mayson, Rev. Kenneth C. Jackson, Rev. Allen Paye, Rev. Elijah Darjue and Pst. Yah Gogboryee at the Gardnerville and Omega Magisterial Courts....”**

This allegation is also baseless because my action to escort these pastors who had been humiliated by Bishop Quire by taking them to court has a constitutional provision. According to our 2016 Book of Discipline, in any judicial process, *“The respondent shall have a right to be accompanied by a clergyperson in full connection pursuant to [para] 2706.2. The clergyperson accompanying the respondent shall have the right to advocacy”* (BOD, 2016, Para. 2701.2c, p.786). The complainant therefore exposes his ignorance of the Discipline.

Bishop Quire, having responded to all of these misleading allegations, I hereby respectfully reject your suspension because it is a calculated attempt to silence my voice, and deny me and other elders of the UMC in Liberia from participating in the forthcoming 192nd annual conference session of our Conference.

Because you are determined to enforce your will upon the Liberia Annual Conference of which you are not a member, I will resist your attempt to silence me and all the other elders you have illegally suspended. With the support of a few leaders, you want to manipulate the proceedings at the 192nd annual conference session and compel the church to endorse same-sex marriage, approve LGBTQ practices, the ordination, and consecration of gays and lesbians as pastors and bishops within the worldwide denomination, even though you claim that they will not be practiced under your watch.

We perceive your assertion as mere deception because, to endorse sinful and unorthodox practices that contradict the clear teachings of the Holy Bible is to be a part of it by acquiescence and by association. Scripture is clear, “Do not be yoked together unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? Therefore, come out from [among] them and be separate...Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you” (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17).

You also want to influence the church to accept the new definition of marriage that the UMC subscribes to as a union between any two consenting adults, in addition to marriage being a covenant relationship between a man and a woman. I resist your plans and will ensure, by the grace of God that you do not succeed with its implementation.

These and other decisions recently passed at the 2020/2024 General Conference denounce the teachings of the Holy Bible. The LAC/UMC therefore rejects them. Already, you have received scores of letters from several local churches within our Annual Conference rejecting your purported regionalization plan and all the other vices you are promoting for passage. On that basis, I refuse your plan to silence me. I will remain an active voice for upholding biblical Christianity not only within

the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, but the entire Christian community in Liberia, Africa, and the world. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry P. Kulah", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah
Vice President
School of Graduate and Professional Studies
United Methodist University