



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Michael Eaddy
CHAIRMAN

GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS AND ELDERS
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

September 28, 2021

Bishop Kurt Thompson, Jurisdictional Prelate
Texas Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Church of God in Christ
P.O. Box 88110
Houston, TX 77228-01110

RE: Petitioner, Texas Southeast First/ Bishop Kurt Thompson Vs Respondent: Pastor Rufus Kyles, Jr.

Dear Bishop Thompson,

Let me begin by acknowledging and commending the General Council of Pastors and Elders Judicial Review Committee on its deliberations concerning the Kyles matter. The time committed and the intellectual exchange invested into this process, to direct the judicial review, is indicative of the Council's commitment to fulfilling its judicial charge.

As Chairman of the General Council of Pastors and Elders, Church of God in Christ ("GCPE"), due to the premature publication of a July 28, 2021 recommendation of the GCPE's Judicial Review Committee, I must make this statement setting forth the GCPE's official position regarding the matter of Pastor Rufus Kyles, Jr. and the Evangelist Temple Church of God in Christ, Houston, TX, located in the Texas Southeast First Jurisdiction. I (with support of legal counsel) have engaged in an extensive review of both the deliberations of the Judicial Review Committee and the matter as a whole.

Let me first address the GCPE process. The premature publication of ruling of the Judicial Review Committee was improper and fell outside the parameters of paragraph 5, sections 6-10 of the Official Manual of the General Council of Pastors and Elders ("GCPE Official Manual"). According to the GCPE Manual, communications of this nature should emanate from the Chairman of the General Council ("The Court shall report its decision to the Chairman of the General Council", section 8).

Moreover, the GCPE Official Manual requires that the Judicial Review Committee report be brought "before the full General Council" for review. Such has not occurred in this case. Therefore, the Judicial Review Committee decision is merely advisory, not final, or conclusive.

Even if one were to conclude that this case is "less than capital in nature", it still requires that in order to be effective, the Judicial Review Committee's decision must be "reported to the Chairman and the Executive Committee". Again, such did not occur in this case. In short, there is no circumstance in which the report of the Judicial Review Committee should have been shared with the litigants or the public without consideration by the GCPE Chairman, the Executive Committee, and in some cases, the GCPE as a whole. Consequently, no one should consider that the Judicial Review Committee decision released on July 28, 2021, is final.

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At this juncture, pursuant to the authority vested in my office, the rules set forth in the GCPE Official Manual, and the precedent, practice, and procedures of the GCPE, I direct that the decision and report of the Judicial Review Committee be brought before the whole General Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting for deliberation and review. Relatedly, I would highly recommend that all parties cease to debate or litigate this matter on social media and the like. Debating this sensitive matter in public does nothing more than to create additional confusion and sows seeds of discord among the saints.

In conclusion, with this matter, not appropriately being reported to me as Chairman, nor to the Executive Committee, prior to the published ruling, the remedy recommended by the Judicial Review Committee (full reinstatement of Pastor Rufus Kyles, Jr.) is hereby stayed until after completion of the process and that Pastor Rufus Kyles, Jr. remain on suspension until the conclusion of the General Council of Pastors & Elders judicial process.

Sincerely,

Michael Eaddy

Superintendent Michael Eaddy, Chairman

CC:

Administrative Assistant Robert E. Garner, Ph.D, Chairman, Judicial Process
Superintendent Kiemba Knowlin, Co-Chairman, Education
Dr. Bruce McCoy, Secretary
Elder James Strolger, Chairman, Texas SE JCPE
Ronald E. Stidham, Representative for the Respondent
Pastor Rufus Kyles, Jr., Respondent
Lonnie Johnson, Attorney
Bishop Prince Bryant, General Board Member
Bishop Lawrence Wooten, General Board Member
Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Presiding Bishop