



# The United Methodist Church

Florida + Episcopal Area

**Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.**  
Florida Area Resident Bishop

February 15, 2016

Mr. Joseph Carson  
10953 Twin Harbour Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37934

Dear Mr. Carson,

I am writing in fulfillment of 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶413.3(d), and in response to your complaint against Bishop Mary Taylor, the Presiding Bishop of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church.

With you we affirm our Social Principles and the mission of the church in God's redemption of the world.

After consultation with two members of the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, and for the purpose of a supervisory response, after reviewing your complaint, I have discerned that it should not be referred as a judicial or administrative complaint. Therefore, the complaint is effectively dismissed pursuant to Judicial Council Decision 1275, which states as follows:

"There is no provision for anyone other than the Committee on Investigation [¶ 2706.5(c)(1) to dismiss a judicial complaint against a bishop. The power to refer a matter as an Administrative Complaint or a Judicial Complaint is granted to the president or secretary of the College of Bishops as the ones with whom the complaint is originally filed (¶ 413.2). Paragraph 413.3(d) permits the president or secretary of the College of Bishops to refer or not to refer the matter as an Administrative Complaint or a Judicial Complaint. If the matter is not referred, it is effectively dismissed."

We wish you God's blessings in your Christian life.

The Peace of the Lord,

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.  
Resident Bishop, Florida Area  
President, Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

cc: Bishop Mary Taylor, Rev. Randy Cooper, Ms. Shirley Cauffman, Rev. Jorge Acevedo