



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HOLSTON AREA

MARY VIRGINIA TAYLOR
RESIDENT BISHOP

November 19, 2015

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

RE: Complaint against the Reverend Larry S. Trotter

Dear Mr. Carson:

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I am writing to officially confirm receipt of your letter dated October 14, 2015, in which you bring a written formal complaint against the Reverend Larry S. Trotter alleging that he has committed one of more of the chargeable offenses listed in paragraph 2702.1 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012 edition)*. Reverend Trotter is an elder of the Holston Conference appointed as pastor of Concord United Methodist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee. The complaint alleges offenses including but not limited to disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church.

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, (2012 edition) guides the procedure for complaints. Whenever I receive a written and signed complaint, the Supervisory Response phase begins and it is my responsibility to review the matter. Pursuant to paragraph 363 of *The Discipline*, I have up to 90 days to review the complaint. During this time, I have the duty to either dismiss the complaint with the consent of the cabinet and place the written reasons in Reverend Trotter's file or refer the matter as a complaint.

I have read and considered the complaint and the attached items. Obviously, as a licensed professional engineer and nuclear safety engineer with the Department of Energy, you are concerned and committed to the public welfare. While I do not pass judgment on your grievance, your concerns appear to be a personnel matter related to your relationship with your employer, rather than your relationship to The United Methodist Church. It is inappropriate to demand that church leaders join your personal cause.

Reverend Trotter's refusal to get involved in a legal matter is a sound decision. It does not constitute a chargeable offense as described in paragraph 2702 of *The Discipline*. After consultation with the cabinet and with their unanimous consent on Thursday, November 12, 2015, I have decided to dismiss your complaint.

Grace and peace,



Mary Virginia Taylor

cc: The Reverend Adam McKee, Oak Ridge District Superintendent
The Reverend Larry S. Trotter, Pastor, Concord United Methodist Church
Mr. John E. Eldridge, Conference Chancellor