



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BIRMINGHAM AREA
NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE

DEBRA WALLACE-PADGETT
PRESIDING BISHOP

May 22, 2018

JILDA HULSEY
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

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

Dear Mr. Carson,

As President of the SEJ College of Bishops I received and reviewed your letter of complaint to me dated February 9, 2018 against Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Presiding Bishop of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. I also looked at the website you referenced in the letter postscript <http://revtrottersvows.com/>.

I consulted with legal counsel and also asked a supervisory response team consisting of members of the Southeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops and Episcopacy Committee to review the materials. They determined that you are bringing the same complaint to me as the one dismissed by Bishop Ken Carter on February 15, 2016. Judicial Council Decision 784 holds that an amended complaint based on the same facts as a previously dismissed complaint is barred by double jeopardy. Thus, with agreement of the Southeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy pursuant to Paragraph 413.3 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, we are dismissing the complaint.

Like Bishop Carter and you, I affirm our Social Principles and the mission of the church in God's redemption of the world. Also, I am sorry about the pain this situation has caused you.

I wish you the best, now and always, Mr. Carson. Blessings to you.

In Christ,

Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop
North Alabama Conference

Cc: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Bishop Sharma Lewis
Dr. Steve Furr
Judge Lewis Nichols
Rev. Sky McCracken