

June 3, 2018

Rev. Debra Wallace-Padgett, President
College of Bishops, Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ)
United Methodist Church
898 Arkadelphia Road
Birmingham, AL 35204

Subject: What is the path forward? Can a “Just Resolution” even be attempted?

Dear Bishop Wallace-Padgett,

I appreciate the apparent consideration my status as an over quarter-century long deeply concerned Christian, licensed professional engineer (PE), federal agency employee, American, and crew-member of planet earth has received from you and others in SEJ, as reflected in your letter to me of May 22, 2018, dismissing my complaint against Bishop Mary Taylor of the Holston Conference of the SEJ. ¹

But what is the path forward - and can it possibly include an effort at a “just resolution”? Surely you do not expect me to rest, not when I think there is deep corruption, possibly including efforts to foment my murder, in Concord United Methodist Church and the Holston Conference - and that this corruption could contribute, indirectly at least, to a nuclear 9/11 or other civilization-threatening catastrophe?

None of this is in any corner - I have likely “prevailed” in more whistleblower-related litigation than anyone in history of federal civil service, from its creation by the Pendleton Act of 1883 and I am almost surely unprecedented in my third federal whistleblower appeal to US Supreme Court, Carson v. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), docket no. 17-1434. ²

Even though Rev. Larry Trotter, the Senior Minister of Concord United Methodist Church (www.concordumc.com), admitted in a legal filing that he hoped to foment an unbalanced member of the Church to murder me, with his baseless claims that I posed a threat of violence, you, as everyone else involved, apparently bystand - why is this? ³

¹ Your letter and this response are available at www.revtrottersvows.com.

² See www.carsonsversusdoe.com for the history of first ten years of my whistleblowing, see www.merit-principles.org for background and links to the current Supreme Court case.

³ See Rule 8.04 of Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, www.tncourts.gov/courts/supreme-court/rules/rules-civil-procedure. The relevant legal filings are available at www.revtrottersvows.com.

I reviewed ¶413.3 of the 2016 Book of Discipline and Judicial Council Decision 784, cited in your letter of May 22, 2018. My January 2016 complaint against Bishop Taylor was NOT “judicially terminated” - instead it was dismissed at conclusion of the supervisory process. It was not referred for investigation per ¶413.3(d), therefore the “double jeopardy” described in Judicial Council decision 784 is not relevant.⁴ Additionally, the “facts” of the second complaint are not the same - the initial complaint did not include allegations that Rev. Trotter baselessly defamed me as a threat of violence (possibly hoping to thereby foment my murder by an unbalanced member of the church), required me to be searched and accompanied when on church property, engaged in cyber-bullying against me, etc. I brought all these new “facts” to the attention of Bishop Taylor - she did nothing but bystand to them - before filing my “amended” complaint.

It seems to me that I engaged in a “protected activity” in bringing forth a good-faith complaint against Rev. Trotter in the Fall of 2015, that Bishop Taylor and her cabinet engaged in misconduct by not processing it as required by the Book of Discipline (in letter as well as spirit). I then complained about her per the Book of Discipline. Following that, Rev. Trotter initiated a campaign of reprisal against me, with her apparent concurrence, for my engaging in the protected activities of filing good-faith complaints against them.

My amended complaint is about her apparent concurrence with Rev. Trotter’s campaign of reprisal against me, possibly intended to result in my murder - things that occurred after Bishop Carter dismissed my initial complaint against her. That is how it now seems to me and nothing in your letter dispels anything or resolves it.

Bottom line, Bishop Wallace-Padgett, what is this about? I say I am suffering persecution to improve the chances that those born in 2018 get to die natural deaths. If you think that is “over the top,” then I think you owe me the opportunity to “make my case.” If you agree that working for “redemption of world” includes working to improve the chances it does not experience large scale, if not near total, civilizational collapse in coming decades, with billions of attendant unnatural deaths, then I think, by your vows, you owe me the chance to make my case.

My point is that it’s not that personal to me - we’re all going to die, even if I am murdered as a result of Rev. Trotter’s campaign of reprisal, well, by any objective measure I’ve still enjoyed a privileged and pleasant life, including working and suffering for the redemption fo the world.

I respectfully request that you you authorize or direct someone to contact me about the possibility of a just resolution. How else do you see this ending, given the stakes I perceive involved and my track record of past quarter-century?

⁴ Judicial Council Decision 784, issued in 1996, cites now renumbered, if not superceded, sections of the Book of Discipline, so I cannot follow its reasoning exactly. However, there clearly was a “judicial termination” of the first complaint in that situation - something that did not occur with my initial complaint against Bishop Taylor, see Bishop Carter’s letter to me of February 15, 2016, available at www.revtrottersvows.com.

In Christ,

 \s\
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Rev. Larry Trotter, Senior Minister, CUMC
Rev. Wil Cantrell, Associate Minister, CUMC
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