

Date: January 18, 2016

To: (via email) (Note: Mr. Carson will refer to himself in the third person.)
Bishop Ken Carter, President, College of Bishops, Southeastern Jurisdiction UMC
450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. Lakeland, FL, 33815-1522 bishop@flumc.org

Bishop Bill McAlilly, Secretary, College of Bishops, Southeastern Jurisdiction UMC,
520 Commerce Street Suite 201 Nashville, TN 37203-3714 bishop@nashareaumc.org

Complainant: Joseph Carson, 10953 Twin Harbour Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934
jpcarson@tds.net 865-300-5831

Respondent: Bishop Mary Taylor, Presiding Bishop, Holston Conference,
217 South Rankin Road Alcoa, TN 37701 bishop@holston.org

Subject: Second supplement to written complaint of January 1, 2016

Mr. Carson is a licensed professional engineer (PE) with a 40 year career in nuclear technology - weapons, power, and other. He has an innately rule-compliant personality - one reason he has endured a quarter-century of much “suffering persecution (to his professional standing, economic security, and family well-being, if nothing else) for righteousness’ sake” in defending and upholding his profession of engineering, its code of ethics, the merit principles of the federal civil service, and the public health, safety, security, and welfare in the Department of Energy.

So he is embarrassed that he was unaware of the existence and relevance of ¶413 of the 2012 Book of Discipline before making his professional misconduct complaint against Mary Virginia Taylor, the Presiding Bishop of the Holston Conference.¹ After recently learning of ¶413, Mr. Carson spent a number of hours reading or re-reading the entire Discipline to minimize the chance of his being uniformed or misinformed in the basis of his complaint or how he should comply with Discipline in seeking a just resolution.

First, Mr. Carson is of the opinion, if a just resolution of his complaint is not achieved in the supervisory response, that the counsel for the Church can lodge a judicial complaint with the committee on investigation resulting in its making a determination of “reasonable belief,” consistent with the relevant “clear and convincing” evidentiary burden, that Bishop Taylor “in conscious and knowing bad faith” failed or refused to comply with both the spirit and letter of ¶363 in discharging her responsibilities in his grievance against Pastor Trotter - a chargeable offense, by ¶¶362.3 and 2701.1.d and j.

¹However, while ¶413 references ¶2704.1, ¶2704.1 does not reference ¶413 and there is, in Mr. Carson opinion, disjoints/vagueness about just how a complaint against a Bishop goes from the supervisory response phase to the complaint phase of the 3 tier “just resolution” process (supervisory response; complaint; trial (and appeal)) described in Discipline.

Second, Mr. Carson wishes to bring to attention of the supervisory bishop and two jurisdictional episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory response process for this complaint how central its issues are to the mission of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop Taylor and Mr. Carson (as well as the supervisory bishop and two episcopacy committee members) have taken membership vows of ¶217 which all professing members of the UMC “covenant together” to keep. These include vows to “reject the evil powers of the world,” and “to resist evil, injustice and oppression.” We have a “sacred covenant,” by ¶219, “share the risks” of doing so. “All the baptized,” by ¶220, are to “identify with the agony and suffering of the world.” By ¶403.1.d, Bishop Taylor has a positive professional duty to be a prophetic voice - even at the risk of suffering persecution to her professional standing and economic security - in rebuking legally established records of established corporation or government agency law-breaking that harms or kills people in the Holston Conference (if not elsewhere) and in calling for the lawful resolution of well-evidenced claims of corporation or government agency law-breaking that put the health, safety, security and welfare - the lives and livelihoods - of people in the Holston Conference (if not elsewhere) at unnecessarily increased risk.

Finally, Bishop Taylor compounds her wrongdoing in having her attorney - her “zealous advocate” - apparently make a material false statement in telling Mr. Carson that he lacks any remedy within the UMC for his allegations and concerns about her.² These are serious charges, claiming behavior beyond simple disobedience - it is deeply destructive to the order and discipline of the United Methodist Church, starting with the Discipline’s Preamble in “Part I” and extending to every of its other Parts (Parts II-VI).

Mr. Carson’s quarter-century long ordeal as a deeply concerned Christian, PE, and federal agency employee, was recently featured in Government Executive, a well-known publication for the federal bureaucracy. It was silent to the faith dimension because Mr. Carson is ashamed - and righteously angry - about how the UMC clergy as Pastor Trotter and Bishop Taylor apparently abandon their membership and ordination vows when “suffering persecution (to their professional standing and economic security) for righteousness’ sake” may entail if they do otherwise.³

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Holston Conference Presiding Bishop Mary Taylor; Oak Ridge District Superintendent Rev. Adam McKee; Concord UMC Pastor Rev. Larry Trotter

² The Judicial Council apparently has no precedent that Mr. Carson lacks any remedy for his concerns about Bishop Taylor’s “conscious and knowing bad faith” in violating the letter and spirit of ¶363 in her handling of his complaint against Pastor Trotter. If this is correct, Mr. Eldridge, her attorney, appears to have made a material false statement to Mr. Carson.

³ See <http://www.govexec.com/management/2015/12/whistleblower-who-wont-go-away/124754/>.