

February 18, 2018

Mr. Tim Priest, Esq.
Two Centre Square
625 Gay St, Suite 600
Knoxville, TN 37902

John Eldridge, Esq.
800 S. Gay Street, Suite 2100
Knoxville, TN 37929

Subject: What I plan to do to obtain a resolution, per Book of Discipline, of my concerns of professional misconduct on parts of Rev. Trotter, Bishop Taylor, and/or other UMC clergy

Dear Mr. Priest and Mr. Eldridge,

I presume that one or both of you are representing Rev. Trotter, Concord United Methodist Church (CUMC), Bishop Taylor, and/or the Holston Conference regarding my public efforts to engage in non-violent, lawful, “behaviors that undermine (their) ministry.” This is a chargeable offense by the Book of Discipline, ¶2702.3j. My defense is the “affirmative defense” of claiming my actions are intended to expose and their professional misconduct - their “chargeable offenses” - by ¶2702.1 and that my actions are consistent with - if not mandated by - my membership vows in the United Methodist Church and the Church’s overarching purpose of advancing the “redemption of the world.”¹

There is a simple way to end this - produce Judicial Council decisions that authorize UMC churches, clergy, Boards, etc to bystand to established legal records of corporation or government agency law-breaking that harms or kills people or to well-evidenced claims of such law-breaking. While I will not agree with such Judicial Council precedent, I will accept it and move on.

Since I do not think you can do this, you can expect that unless a written complaint is filed against me, per the Book of Discipline at ¶228.2.b.5, in next few weeks, that I will send a letter to the membership of CUMC, detailing my claims of chargeable offenses against Rev. Trotter, Bishop Taylor, and/or other UMC clergy, that requests them to withhold their donations to

¹ See ¶ 217 and the last sentence of the first paragraph of the Preamble to the Constitution of the UMC. The Preamble precedes ¶ 1. My claims are detailed at <http://revtrottersvows.com>.

CUMC until a complaint against me is allowed to go forward per the Book of Discipline.^{2 3}

In the past, Mr. Eldridge stated he would seek a court order against me, if I continued to request the Book of Discipline process be used to resolve my concerns against Rev. Trotter and Bishop Taylor. I consider this statement to violate both his UMC membership vows and his rules of professional conduct as a licensed attorney - but consistent with the deep corruption I suspect in the Holston Conference. I filed a professional misconduct complaint against him with the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility.

As you know, Mr. Priest, my defamation suit against Rev. Trotter was dismissed based on “church-state separation.” Well, you cannot have it both ways - threaten on one hand to take legal action against me instead of using the Book of Discipline process to resolve my concerns, while getting legal actions intended to resolve the matter dismissed, by citing the Book of Discipline process as being the appropriate way to resolve them. But that you would try to “have it both ways” is consistent with the deep corruption I suspect in Holston Conference.

My public statement to both of you is “Shame on you” for violating your membership vows in UMC in doing whatever you can to prevent the application of the Book of Discipline to resolve my public claims of corruption, chargeable offenses, and professional misconduct on the part of Rev. Trotter and Bishop Taylor. Do you also hope - as I understand, by the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, Rev. Trotter does - that a mentally unbalanced person in CUMC murders me as a result of his baseless claims of my being a threat of going on a murderous rampage in CUMC? To extent you do - then more shame on you.

Respectfully,

Joseph Carson, PE
10953 Twin Harbour Drive
Knoxville, TN 37934

copy:

Bishop Debbie Wallace-Padgett, President College of Bishops, SEJ
Bishop Mary Taylor, Holston Conference
Rev. Brenda Carroll, Superintendent Oak Ridge District
Rev. Larry Trotter, CUMC
Ms. Beth Crawford, Chair, Church Council, CUMC
Mr. David Conklin, Chair, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, CUMC

² Based on my review the database of Judicial Council decisions at <http://www.umc.org/decisions/search>, none authorize such bystanding to such institutional evil.

³ I have reviewed the “terms of use” of the online CUMC directory and consider my planned actions consistent with them.