

December 2, 2015

To: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Holston Conference, UMC
217 South Rankin Road,
Alcoa, TN, 37701 | P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN, 37701-0850
www.holston.org

Complainant: Joseph Carson, lay member, Concord United Methodist Church www.concordumc.com

Respondent: Larry Trotter, Senior Pastor, Concord United Methodist Church

Subject: Renewed written and signed complaint per 2012 UMC Book of Discipline alleging a chargeable offense per §2702(1)(b) and/or(d), made per §363.1 in light of your letter of November 19, 2015.

Dear Bishop Taylor,

I renew and supplement my October 14, 2015 complaint against Pastor Trotter. This is a supplement to the initial complaint and is submitted in reply to your letter of November 19, 2015 that dismissed the unresolved complaint.

I allege that you did not comply with your duties per paragraph 363 of the 2012 Book of Discipline before dismissing the complaint. As one specific, when you received the complaint, I was not “informed in writing of the process to be followed at that stage” before I received your letter of November 19, 2015 telling me that my complaint had been dismissed based on a vote of your cabinet on November 12, 2015.

Contrary to the clear wording of paragraph 363.b, you did not conduct a “supervisory response” as described in paragraph 363.b and/or 363.c, before dismissing the complaint. Specifically, I received no pastoral response from you, let alone one that “shall be directed toward a just resolution....” There were no “supervisory meetings” involving me, there was no communication to me about “process,” specifically of your intent to have your cabinet vote to dismiss the unresolved complaint - I was not invited me to address the cabinet prior to their vote. There was not attempt, based on your letter, to select anyone to assist in the supervisory response. Even though my complaint specifically requested you initiate a “just resolution,” per paragraph 363.c, you did not do so, nor you did not explain why. In sum, you failed or refused to comply with your duties to perform a supervisory response that “shall be directed toward a just resolution...” before you and your cabinet dismissed the unresolved complaint.

Your letter of November 19, 2015 describes your responsibilities of paragraph 363.e as:

“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.”

However, your description of your duties is incomplete.

Paragraph 363.e:

Referral of a Complaint—Upon receiving a written and signed complaint, the Bishop shall, within 90 days, carry out the supervisory response process. If within 90 days after the receipt of the complaint resolution is not achieved, the bishop shall either:

- (1) Dismiss the complaint with the consent of the cabinet giving the reasons therefore in writing, a copy of which shall be placed in the clergy person's file; or*
- (2) Refer the matter to the counsel for the church as a complaint*

You failed or refused to comply with your duty to “carry out the supervisory response process” before dismissing the unresolved complaint. There was no effort whatsoever to achieve a just resolution of my complaint before you and your cabinet dismissed it.

I think you and your cabinet’s failure or refusal to comply with your duties, per paragraph 363, in this matter serves to compound the basis of my complaint of willful and blameworthy bystanding by Reverend Trotter to my well-evidenced claims of decades-long, compounded, continuing, civilization-threatening (i.e. “redemption of the world- threatening”) federal agency law-breaking, regardless of risk to my PE license, federal job and benefits.

Consistent with my deep desire to attain a “just resolution” of this matter, I now renew and supplement my complaint of October 14, 2015. Please comply with your duties in conducting a “supervisory response” that “shall be directed toward a just resolution..” as paragraph 363.b requires of you (and your cabinet) before you and they agree the unresolved complaint should be dismissed.

I disagree with additional statements in your letter of November 19, 2015, specifically:

“While I do not pass judgment on your grievance...”

Bishop Taylor, what “grievance” are you referring to? I publicly allege decades-long, compounded, continuing, redemption-of-the-world-threatening, law-breaking in two federal agencies. A well-known local attorney has independently reviewed my claims and finds my claims of the law-breaking at least well-evidenced. You have the resources to locate another attorney to review the basis in law and fact (there are no disputed facts) of my claims.

“your concerns appear to be a personnel matter related to your relationship with your employer...”

Bishop Taylor, how do you reduce my public claims of decades-long, compounded, continuing, redemption-of-the-world-threatening, law-breaking to a “*personnel matter related to your relationship with your employer?*” In fact, the law-breaking I allege is occurring not in my employer, the U.S. Department of Energy, but in the U.S. Office of Special Counsel and U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board.

“It is inappropriate to demand that church leaders join your personal cause.”

What is “personal” about it? I am not claiming I was personally fired, demoted, etc. I am claiming decades-long, compounded, continuing, redemption-of-the-world-threatening, law-breaking in two federal agencies. How is that “personal,” Bishop Taylor?

“Reverend Trotter’s refusal to get involved in a legal matter is a sound decision.”

How did I ask him to get involved in a “legal matter” I did not ask him to file a brief in any legal proceeding or make any independent public statement about the merits of my claims of decades-long, compounded, continuing, redemption-of-the-world-threatening, law-breaking in two federal agencies. I only asked him to do exactly what Congressman Duncan has urged me to do - have people as Reverend Trotter contact him expressing concern about the unresolved nature of my claims and that he (Congressman Duncan) use the influence of his office to advance their lawful resolution. I did not ask Reverend Trotter to “take sides.”

Bishop Taylor, instead of my filing a complaint against you and your cabinet for your and their apparent failure or refusal to comply (or ensure compliance) with the “supervisory response” requirements of paragraph 363.b before dismissing my unresolved complaint, I desire to give you another opportunity to conduct a supervisory response. If you believe that I have no grounds to file a complaint - if it is your determination that my complaint is baseless even if everything I claim is true about decades-long, compounded, continuing, redemption-of-the-world-threatening, lawbreaking in federal agencies Office of Special Counsel and Merit Systems Protection Board and Reverend Trotter’s willful failure or refusal to do anything but bystand to them, please cite relevant Judicial Council Decisions that justify your determination.

Bishop Taylor, if you again fail or refuse to do your duty to conduct a supervisory response that “shall be directed toward a just resolution...” before dismissing my unresolved complaint, I will file a complaint against you and may take additional actions to publicly rebuke you and Pastor Trotter, regardless of their possible impact on your ministry.

Please do your duty, Bishop Taylor. If you determine that duty is to file a misconduct complaint against me, I would welcome the opportunity to defend my actions and their basis in fact, law, and UMC Book of Discipline.

Respectfully,

_____/s/_____
Joseph P. Carson, PE
10953 Twin Harbour Drive
Knoxville, TN 37934
jpcarson@tds.net
865-300-5831

Attachment: Your letter of November 19, 2015

copy:

Concord United Methodist Church Pastor Larry Trotter
Oak Ridge District Superintendent Adam McKee