



REQUEST TO THE WESTERN JURISDICTION COLLEGE OF BISHOPS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On [March 9, 2022](#), the Western Jurisdiction announced the suspension of Bishop Minerva Carcaño. MARCHA (Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic/Latino Americans) raised questions regarding the process and decision of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops and the Committee on Episcopacy to suspend Bishop Carcaño while a response team was formed to review the complaints.

On [March 25, 2022](#), MARCHA received a communication from the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops and Committee on Episcopacy, which raised more questions than answers. Their response, quoting par. 413 of the Book of Discipline, gives the impression that it is a standard practice to suspend bishops from all episcopal responsibilities at the beginning of a complaint process.

MARCHA is puzzled by the discrepancy in how the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops decided on Bishop Carcaño's suspension compared to how all other complaints have been processed in the Western Jurisdiction and in the UMC. Complaints are confidential, but suspensions are not. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time in the United Methodist Church (UMC) that a bishop has been placed in suspension before the review of complaints, and it just happens to be a Hispanic/Latina clergy woman.

MARCHA is outraged about the unprecedented suspension of Bishop Carcaño while the complaints are reviewed, and its implications for the church, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized. This untimely decision has silenced a key voice in a critical time in the life of the UMC including, but not limited to, the Council of Bishops which is guiding the future of our denomination, the General Council of Finance and Administration which is making decisions that impact racial-ethnic ministries, and the Western Jurisdiction which is currently undergoing a critical discernment and visioning process. The silencing of the voice of Bishop Carcaño, who understands the struggle of marginalized communities, has silenced our cry not only in the church, but also in the public square.

MARCHA denounces and laments the harm already done by this process to Bishop Minerva Carcaño, the Hispanic/Latino community in the UMC, and our denomination, as it perpetuates stereotypes, prejudices, and biases toward ethnic persons in leadership in the church. This process thus far has caused undue pain, righteous anger, *indignidad*, and exacerbated anxiety amongst many. This could've all been prevented.

MARCHA respectfully requests the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to lift the suspension of Bishop Carcaño immediately, while the complaint process continues to find a resolution.

As we approach Holy Week, we are reminded of the process that Jesus endured to be sentenced to death. Our hope and prayer are that no further harm is done, and a fair process is ensured for Bishop Minerva Carcaño. MARCHA will continue to monitor the process and invites the denomination to continue praying for all parties involved. Paz con Justicia.