

May 1, 2023

United Methodist Council of Bishops  
c/o Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, President  
General Commission on Religion and Race  
c/o Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo, General Secretary and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Board President  
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women  
c/o Dawn Wiggins Hare, General Secretary and Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Board President

We, the undersigned clergy of the California-Nevada Annual Conference—who are People of Color, LGBTQIA+ people, mental health advocates, those who reside at various intersections of these, and allies—have witnessed a significant amount of public commentary and advocacy regarding the complaint process involving Bishop Carcaño over the course of the past 12+ months. The vast majority of this commentary has been solely focused on how difficult, even harmful, this has been for Bishop Carcaño. While we have no doubt that the past 12+ months have been personally and professionally difficult for Bishop Carcaño, the degree to which concern for the full body of the California-Nevada Conference has been absent from these public statements, compels us to speak out. Sadly, we believe that the Western Jurisdiction's ongoing commitment to honor the Disciplinary process, including the mandates of confidentiality, has provided space for others to create a thin narrative focused solely on engendering support for Bishop Carcaño.

We acknowledge that our institution has enacted or been complicit in perpetuating systemic oppression and harm including, but not limited to racism, sexism, and homophobia. Some of us have experienced and witnessed this firsthand. We, too, are eager for justice to be done. However, those advocating for an immediate end to Bishop Carcaño's suspension, do so by their own admission without any objective awareness as to why the suspension was implemented. To expedite this process, absent this awareness, is irresponsible, reckless, and does harm to faith in our systems of accountability.

We understand these public calls come from a place of care and concern, but to raise the prophetic voice against systemic oppression without objective knowledge of a particular situation does a disservice to justice itself. While there are, without a doubt, those within the California-Nevada Conference who would welcome Bishop Carcaño's return to active service, we believe that her return to active service as Resident Bishop of the California-Nevada Conference without the accountability required by a Just Resolution agreement or the findings of a trial court, would create a depth of conflict and division that could undermine the mission and ministry of the Annual Conference for years to come.

In the peace of Christ,

Jeanelle Ablola	Mahsea Evans	Vickie Healy	Betty Pagett
Brian Adkins	Janet S. Everhart Hartliff	Tony E. Hoefner	Emily Pickens-Jones
Gayle Basten	Renae Extrum-Fernandez	Hubert Ivery	Jacey Pickens-Jones
Lindsey Bell-Kerr	Donna Farrell	Eileen Johnson	Linda Pickens-Jones
Dave Bennett	Anthony Fatta	Alan Jones	Jay K. Pierce
Greg Bergquist	Virginia (Ginger) Foster	Hope Kawashima	Schuyler Rhodes
Alison Berry	Susan Foster	Colin Kerr-Carpenter	Angel Rivero
Diana Bohn	Kristen Gallagher	Sungrae Kim	Nathan Sam-Whistler
Jola Bortner	Dana Gill	Kathy La Point-Collup	Chris Shiber
Dawn Blundell	Alice Ann Glenn	Emily Lin	Kim Smith
Debra Brady	Katie Goetz	Steve Lundin	Susan Grace Smith
Elizabeth Brick	Jennifer Goto	Maggie McNaught	Becky Stockdale
Felicisimo Cao	Shinya Goto	Kathi McShane	Sadie Stone
Mark Cordes	Deborah Grundman	Akiko Miyake-Stoner	John Sublett
Pamela D. Cummings	Luke Ham	Kim Montenegro	Carolyn Talmadge
Amy Beth Durward de Macias	Caiti Hamilton	Janet Mueller	Gerardo Vazquez
Dirk Damonte	Nobuaki Hanaoka	Jennifer Murdock	Tom Widlund
Andrew Davis	Michael Harrell	Mallory Naake	Motoe Yamada Foor
Kevin Dotts	Neal Harrell	Cate Noellert	Michael Yoshii
Madi Elsea	Ofa Uepi Ha'unga	John Oda	Mariellen Yoshino
Carol Estes	Lee Hayward	Melanie Oliver	