

**OPEN LETTER TO THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

April 29, 2023

Dear Council of Bishops,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Today is **the 418th Day** of the suspension of our Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño.

We clergy and laity of the ethnic caucuses of the California-Nevada Annual Conference as well as of Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, have expressed our serious concerns over the unprecedented ongoing suspension of our Bishop Minerva Carcaño in four letters at different times.

On January 20, 2023, we mailed a letter of request to the President of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops and the Chair of the Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy to immediately lift the prolonged suspension of Bishop Minerva Carcaño and immediately restore her to her episcopal office and responsibilities. However, our voices were ignored.

We realized that the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops and Committee on Episcopacy would not address the violation of fair process as prescribed in Paragraph 539 in the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Moreover, by placing suspension one after another (Paragraph 413.3 first and Paragraph 2704.1 next) on Bishop Minerva Carcaño, the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops and Committee on Episcopacy have shown no intention to restore her to her episcopal office and could suspend her indefinitely.

In addition to the prolonged suspension, Bishop Minerva Carcano was prohibited to “be in contact with persons affiliated with the organization at any level.” This treatment has hurt the ministries of ethnic minority local churches and communities as well as damaged her reputation in public square.

We shared this situation with a retired civilian court judge, an active member of a local United Methodist Church, he said, "In a civilian court, this kind of inquisition would not be tolerated, because our Constitution requires that an accused be brought to trial or hearing in a reasonably timed manner."

On April 25, 2023, the Judicial Council Decision Number 1484, by a 7 to 2 vote, ruled: “The provisions of ¶ 413.3d(ii) and (iv) are constitutional because they do not violate the constitution of the United Methodist Church.” We see light at the end of the tunnel.

Bishops, we humbly beseech you to exercise your constitutional authority to remove the complaint against Bishop Minerva Carcaño from the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to the Council of Bishops and create a panel that ensures a fair, equitable, and transparent process.

Bishops, we earnestly plead with you to immediately lift the inconceivable prolonged suspension of Bishop Minerva Carcaño, **418 Days**, while the process continues. We really miss her and her able and gracious episcopal leadership.

Respectfully,

Peter Lau

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Chair, Fijian Caucus of California-Nevada Conference: Rev. Tevita G. Koroi
Chair, Vietnamese Caucus of California-Nevada Conference: Rev. Charles Tran
Chair, Korean Caucus of California-Nevada Conference: Rev. Dr. Justin Chesung Ryu
Chair, Hmong Caucus of California-Nevada Conference: Rev. Cheng Yang
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