



The United Methodist Church  
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SCOTT J. JONES  
Resident Bishop

June 24, 2016

To: All clergy and lay members of the Great Plains Conference

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write to keep you informed about how the complaint against Cynthia Meyer is being handled. In accordance with the resolution adopted at Conference, the parties have held one meeting by video conference. Counsel for the Church offered a new proposal for a just resolution. Counsel for the Respondent did not offer any proposal, but requested deep conversation with a mediator present, suggesting someone from Just Peace. That proposal was accepted by the Counsel for the Church and myself, and we have engaged a mediator from that organization. She will be working with all parties over the next several weeks preparing for a face-to-face conversation in August.

The Committee on Investigation held its hearing June 21 and informed all parties of their decision today. They voted unanimously to refer the charges for trial. It is my responsibility to convene the trial court which will have another bishop as its presiding officer. Preparations for the trial will move forward.

In accordance with Paragraph 363.1(c) of *The Book of Discipline, 2012*, a just resolution is possible at any time. Nevertheless, preparations for the trial must go forward so that it is held in a timely manner. If a just resolution agreement is reached, the complaint will be ended by that agreement and no trial will be held.

All of us engaged in this process covet your prayers. I have indicated to you that the Great Plains Conference has been put in a place where there are no good options. I hope to avoid a trial and still uphold my covenant vows. Nevertheless, our church's constitution guarantees Rev. Meyer the right to a trial and we may end up having one. I believe that all of us will do the best we can to follow the General Conference's admonition that we seek to live in grace with each other while we uphold the Discipline of our Church.

Grace and peace,

Scott J. Jones



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