



General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March 11, 2023

For Immediate Release

The Board of Directors of The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women issues the following statement to The United Methodist Church:

The United Methodist Church has given the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women the responsibility to “function as an advocate with and on behalf of women individually and collectively within The United Methodist Church.” This week marks the one-year anniversary of the placing of Bishop Minerva Carcaño of the San Francisco Episcopal Area on suspension. Statements have been issued to indicate that Bishop Carcaño was suspended in response to the filing of complaints against her.

For God’s work of justice, reconciliation, and healing to be realized in the body of Christ, fair process in the life of the Church must be applied to all parties involved equally and in a timely manner. Justice delayed is in fact justice denied with the compounding of harm as the process is prolonged. No healing can begin until there is a resolution. On the face of this extended suspension, serious questions arise as to the process being followed and the causes for this delay.

At any point in the complaint process, it is considered timely for the process to be directed towards a just resolution. The Book of Discipline requires that special attention should be given to insuring that cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender contexts are valued throughout the process to assure that there are understandings of fairness, justice, and restoration.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women urges all persons responsible for handling of the administrative and the pastoral processes to promptly seek a just resolution consistent with the language and spirit of Paragraph 362 of the Book of Discipline.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women respectfully requests inclusion to allow monitoring of the process going forward and we formally offer our services to assist in seeking a just resolution including the providing of mediation and healing resources.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women invites all members of the Church to pray for a just resolution and the healing of all parties.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Directors* of The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Dawn Wiggins Hare,
General Secretary

Bishop Tracy S. Malone,
President

*Western Jurisdiction board member recused themselves.