



March 29, 2018

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky  
Greater Northwest Area  
P. O. Box 13650  
Des Moines, Washington 98198-1009

Dear Bishop Elaine:

The Steering Committee of the United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy (UMARC) commends you for your recent appointment of an openly married lesbian pastor as District Superintendent and for hiring a LGBTQ Advocacy Coordinator.

We are writing to express our appreciation for your courageous and timely leadership and to express our dismay at those who have chosen to accuse you of an "assault on the church's standards," as we believe your actions reflect the Gospel's deepest commitment to inclusiveness and justice for all people. Likewise we are deeply appreciative of your measured and respectful response; we believe it should serve as a model for our ongoing dialogue within our beloved United Methodist Church.

Because you served with distinction as our episcopal leader in the Mountain Sky Area for eight years, we know you are a woman of integrity and deep commitment to the well-being of The United Methodist Church. Further, we know of your deep concern for all people as well as your lifetime efforts working to maintain the unity of Christ's church. We, therefore, take great offense at public attacks against you and our sisters and brothers in the Greater Northwest Area.

We thank you for the eight years you served in our Area so faithfully and for your undiminished commitment to creating a truly inclusive United Methodist Church.

Warm Regards,

  
UMARC Steering Committee

Donald E. Messer (Chair), Harvey Martz (Vice Chair), Marilyn McGraw (Secretary),  
John Blinn (Treasurer), Charles Schuster, Julian Rush, Marla Kauerz, Linda Gertenbach,  
Dave and Christina Ferguson

CC: Bishop Karen Oliveto