



# The United Methodist Church

Denver Area

Rocky Mountain Conference

Yellowstone Conference

Elaine J. W. Stanovsky  
Resident Bishop

Jayne Adams  
Executive Assistant

September 11, 2009

Sisters and Brothers in the Rocky Mountain United Methodist Family,

I am writing this letter out of continuing concern for our colleague, Rev. Edward W. Paup, and also to inform you of a sensitive matter within the Rocky Mountain Conference.

You may recall that Rev. Paup was a bishop in the church until he resigned from that office a year ago when he accepted an appointment as General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries in New York. At that time he returned to membership as an ordained elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Last week we received word that Rev. Paup has been diagnosed with a brain tumor and resigned as General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries for medical reasons. He has given permission to share that he is still undergoing testing and does not yet have a prognosis. At this time they are treating the tumor as benign.

His clergy membership continues in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Your conference leaders are in consultation with him about what his next appointment status will be.

Many of you have expressed your love for Ed and his wife, Carol, and appreciation for his ministry both within the Rocky Mountain Conference and as a bishop in the Portland and Seattle Areas. We all hope and pray that God will strengthen Rev. Paup in body and spirit and uphold his family in the days ahead. As a community of faith, I hope many of you will communicate your encouragement and prayers for healing to Ed and his wife, Carol, at 1101 Calle Del Valle, Belen, New Mexico 87002. I have asked Rev. Charles Schuster to offer Ed and Carol pastoral support on behalf of the conference during this time.

At the same time that we uphold him in our care, the Rocky Mountain Conference is also involved in a sensitive process of reviewing Rev. Paup's ministry. Late last year I received a complaint that he had violated the sacred trust of ordination. Following the process provided in *The Book of Discipline* I initiated a supervisory response to the complaint and cabinet members diligently inquired into the allegations, seeking a just resolution of the concerns raised. When a just resolution was not reached I forwarded the matter to Rev. Steve Overall, a clergy member of the Yellowstone Annual Conference, who is serving as counsel for the Church in the judicial phase of the complaint process.

You may wonder why I am sharing this information at this time. The Rocky Mountain supervisory team has carefully maintained confidentiality in this case. However through other sources persons not only within the Conference, but across the church and in the press have become aware that complaints are pending against Rev. Paup. They even have confidential

information about the substance of the allegations. The recent news of his medical condition and resignation prompted renewed speculation that he might be under complaint. Rather than letting rumor and misinformation go unchecked, I want you to hear from my office the basic facts about the process that can be shared at this time.

Our church has a careful deliberative process for responding to complaints against clergy persons that seeks to balance the need for confidentiality of the proceedings with the church's general interest in transparency and accountability. Even under the difficult circumstances of his diagnosis, the Rocky Mountain Conference has a duty to carry the complaint process to conclusion. As we do so, your leaders are mindful and careful of Rev. Paup's health. We will continue to keep information about the allegations confidential to protect the individuals involved and the deliberative process of the church. Each of you shares this responsibility for maintaining confidentiality.

I invite you to join me in praying a wide and generous prayer for Ed and Carol Paup, for the persons who brought forward the complaints, for each one who has a role in this process and for the integrity of Christ's church.

*May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations for ever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3: 17-21)*

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine J. W. Stanovsky". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "With love in Christ,".

Bishop Elaine J. W. Stanovsky

Please address questions to Rev. Skip Strickland, Director of Connectional Ministries, Rocky Mountain Conference at 303-733-3736, Ext 156 or [Skip@rmcumc.com](mailto:Skip@rmcumc.com) .