

## **A Statement from The College of Bishops of The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church**

**September 19, 2010  
Louisville, Kentucky**

The College of Bishops of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has been informed of the judicial proceedings of the 48th District Civil Court of Tarrant County, Texas, wherein a jury finding against the CME Church for Negligence and a finding of Assault against one of the Bishops of the Church, Bishop Kenneth Wayne Carter, was made on August 27, 2010. Accordingly, a monetary judgment was awarded against Bishop Carter and the Church for which the church is responsible for 25% or one-quarter of the judgment amount. Though the finding has been rendered by the jury, the attorney hired to represent the CME Church in this matter has filed a motion for a Judgment Notwithstanding the Verdict (JNOV) which asks that the judgment against the church be reduced and/or set aside. The judge will enter a final judgment within six weeks.

The College of Bishops recognizes the rights of all persons involved in this matter but above all realizes that the church is of God and not of human beings. While the Church exists in a civil society and is subject to the laws of that society, it has its own laws and procedures which in this society are given due deference when followed. For this reason, until a final judgment has been entered regarding the above-mentioned finding, the College of Bishops asks members of the CME Church to refrain from rash and partially informed judgments or actions.

We would remind all persons that this is a **civil** matter and not a **criminal** matter; and no charge or complaint has been filed within the church, against this or any Bishop for a period of three years since the inception and pendency of this civil lawsuit. In the absence of a formal charge filed within the Church, there is no action to take against Bishop Carter.

The Bible admonishes us to do everything in decency and in order and the CME Church has abided for One Hundred and Forty Years as a church of laws and procedures, prayerfully adhering to those laws and procedures to withstand the tests of time and tribulation. We are against any and all forms of sexual harassment, misconduct and intimidation by persons in leadership in our church and stand ready to respond to them in accordance with the laws and procedures of our church and the laws of the state.

The College of Bishops is aware of the issues and questions of theology and doctrine raised by this case. The College will continue to discuss those issues and will present a report to the General Connectional Board suggesting steps for the church to take in order to define and clarify the church's position on those issues.

We assure the members of the CME Church that when the final judgment is rendered by the judge, the College of Bishops will discuss the implications for the church and determine any appropriate follow-up action.

### *The College of Bishops of The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church:*

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