



Hope Presbyterian Church

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Received by SOC Stated
Clerk on April 23, 2024
via email

To: Presbytery of Detroit Administrative Commission
cc: Synod of the Covenant
Commissioners of the Synod of the Covenant
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Detroit
Temporary Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Detroit

Dear Administrative Commission, Presbytery of Detroit,

We send this letter in support of a swift, equitable, and transparent resolution to the conflict between Charon Barconey and the Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Detroit (serving as both the Presbytery as a whole, and as the Operations Ministry Team, which handles staffing and human resource affairs). This ongoing contention, culminating in the current status of her position, serves to broaden issues of trust, understanding, and unity within our Presbytery. Until acceptable resolution to matters of these parties is achieved and communicated to the member congregations, misunderstandings, questions, and oppositions among its members will continue to grow and ultimately endanger the existence of the Presbytery as a whole. Churches are already ignoring many concerns/duties for the Presbytery and focusing only on their own internal interests. Even before the “sacred pause” was implemented, interest in the work of the Presbytery dwindled, and fewer vacancies in ministry team and committee positions were being filled or even considered, particularly by marginalized members, as these issues continue to fester.

It is difficult to conceive that the efforts of new and unaware resources to guide us will be welcomed and embraced when the treatment of one of our own has been shrouded in secrecy and suspicion. Acceptance, cooperation, and healing will only come when the leadership of this Presbytery acts in transparency, fairness, and at least in accordance with practices already established, acknowledged, and pursued by this Presbytery for consideration of equity and inclusiveness. We pray that the Administrative Commission will move forward swiftly instead of lapsing into unacceptable ignorance and repeating our slow progress toward the beloved community.

Yours in Christ,
Hope Presbyterian Church Session:

Eleanor Adams
Gloria Dukes
Jacquelyn Hines
Stefanie Lewis
Daryl Taylor
Roy Whitaker