

Church Name:

To: Pastor and Finance Committee

Until further notice, please accept this letter as a formal request that my financial contributions to this local church be used as directed by the Finance Committee with one restriction and that is toward any support of The Episcopal Fund.

As a faithful steward over the resources God has placed in our hands I am convicted that we must stop paying the episcopacy for not doing its job. Newly elected Bishop Karen Oliveto is a married lesbian who has become the first openly gay bishop of The United Methodist Church. In 2004 Rev. Oliveto officiated the marriage of two men in San Francisco in clear violation of The Book of Discipline. She boasts of having officiated fifty such 'weddings' in all. Rev. Oliveto admits to being in a relationship with another woman for seventeen years and has been married to her for two years (while serving in the United Methodist Church). On July 15, 2016 Rev. Oliveto was consecrated as a bishop in the United Methodist Church.

How is it possible that Bishop Oliveto ever made it this far in a connectional system presided over by bishops who accepted the charge 'to guard the faith, order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the Church' (Par. 401)? Where was the episcopal oversight when Rev. Oliveto was ordained an elder? When Rev. Oliveto married her spouse while in a position of pastoral leadership why didn't her bishop immediately file charges against her? Where was any episcopal leadership when Rev. Oliveto violated (Par. 2702.1) which lists conducting homosexual ceremonies as a chargeable offense?

Those who have been elected for the purpose of 'ordering the life of the Church' (Par. 401) have utterly failed to provide desperately needed leadership in upholding *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. Instead the episcopacy has presided over four decades of acrimony concerning sex ethics in general and homosexuality in particular.

Until Bishop Oliveto is defrocked I will redirect my giving away from the Episcopal Fund.

Signature

Date