

5020 W  
Amelia Earhart DR  
84116

201 536-1325  
FAX #



# Mountain Sky Area of The United Methodist Church

Rocky Mountain Conference      Yellowstone Conference  
6110 Greenwood Plaza Boulevard, Greenwood Village, CO 80111-4809      303-753-0089

Elaine J. W. Stanovsky  
Resident Bishop

Nancy Cox  
Executive Assistant

November 11, 2012

To the people of God at Laumalie Ma'oni'oni United Methodist Church of Salt Lake City,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

I give thanks to God every day for you: for your faithfulness to Christ's mission in the world, for your love and care of one another, for the strong church home you provide for Tongan people in Salt Lake City, for the grace you show each other and the world through the ministries of the church. I remember with gratitude the joy of the feast we shared together as the Tongan United Methodist Churches welcomed me as bishop of the Denver area and the many generous gifts shared with me that day.

For many months I have prayed daily for a resolution of the strife that is harming the church. For months I have worked and District Superintendents Tukutau, Vose and Goodier have suffered with you and have worked to find a path of peace that will restore order and calm within the church, to strengthen and free the church to offer ministries of grace and mercy to a world that hungers and thirsts for living water.

Since I became aware of reports that young boys had been sexually abused within the church building and community by another, older boy, I have prayed for these children and their families, that they would be healed of the harm done to them and that their trust of their church might be restored. This situation is especially difficult because it occurs at a crossroads of cultures. Tongan culture has a way of bringing individuals and families together for conversation as a part of the healing process. The laws of the State of Utah establish additional requirements that clergy immediately report suspected abuse of children to law enforcement. The United Methodist Church, biblically based, has strict expectations that clergy will report suspected abuse to legal authorities and to their district superintendent in a timely manner and provide appropriate protection and pastoral care, including counseling, to victims of abuse.

When he became aware of reports that abuse had occurred within the church, Pastor Havili Mone acted to try to heal the harm of abuse in a way that did not fulfill the expectations of

The United Methodist Church and fell short of the professional standards for clergy in the United States. I have no reason to believe that Pastor Havili Mone intended to do harm to the church or to the boys and their families, but his mistaken actions caused confusion and harm within the congregation and led me to suspend him as the pastor of Laumalie Ma'oni'oni. The purpose of the suspension was to create time for the district superintendents and me to work with the congregation to fully understand the situation at the church, to bring Safe Sanctuary training to the church, to care for the boys and their families and to seek a just resolution to Rev. Mone's failure to live up to the standards of The United Methodist Church and the State of Utah.

On October 21 and 22 district superintendents Vose and Goodier and I prayed and met with Rev. Mone and a support person that he brought with him to discuss how best to promote healing for the boys in the church and their families and the whole church community. After much conversation, deliberation and prayer, I have reluctantly come to the decision that Rev. Mone cannot return as pastor of Laumalie Ma'oni'oni United Methodist Church. After I shared this decision with Rev. Mone he consented and signed an agreement specifying terms of his departure from the church. Effective November 15, 2012, the following will occur:

1. I intend to close the complaints against Rev. Mone
2. I intend to end Rev. Mone's suspension from ministry
3. I will end Rev. Mone's appointment to Laumalie Ma'oni'oni
4. Upon his request and the approval of the Rocky Mountain Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Rev. Mone will enter into a relationship of Voluntary Leave of Absence from active ministry. Voluntary Leave of Absence is an appointment status in which the ordained pastor retains his/her credentials but does not serve a church.
5. Consistent with Rocky Mountain Conference "Guidelines for Appropriate Conduct by Current and Former Pastors," Rev. Mone will discontinue all pastoral responsibilities and relationships with members of Laumalie Ma'oni'oni (see page 4)

Rev. Eddie Kelemen will complete his time as your interim pastor on November 30. District Superintendent Vose will work immediately to ensure the appointment of your next pastor.

These weeks at Laumalie Ma'oni'oni has been painful for members and friends of the church, for Rev. Mone and his family and for his supervisors and colleagues. I have received messages from many of you. I want you to know that I have heard your cries and understand your distress. You do not all share the same concerns, and you are not of one mind about how to resolve your concerns. Unfounded and hurtful rumors have spread about Rev. Mone and others in church leadership. I want to put these rumors to rest and say clearly that the complaints against Rev. Mone focus exclusively on two matters: shortcomings of his pastoral leadership after he learned of allegations of sexual abuse in the church and his refusal to respect the authority of my office, as exercised by his district superintendent.

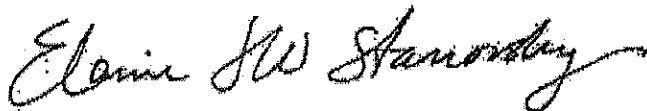
Divisions within the church will not heal without the deep faith of each member in Jesus Christ, who prays "that we all might be one" (John 17:21) and who tears down dividing walls,

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is the hostility between us.*  
Ephesians 2:13-14

As a bishop of the church I am called to be a shepherd of the sheep, in partnership with the district superintendents and pastors. The sheep needed to be tended and protected by the shepherds in this situation, are first the boys who were abused, second the boy who is in jail for the abuse, the families of all the boys, and the whole congregation. My decisions have been made in obedience to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who charges and authorizes me to ensure that each pastor-shepherd cares appropriately for the people in his or her flock.

I leave you with a hope and an admonition.

*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*



Elaine J. W. Stanovsky