



**A PASTORAL LETTER**

To the United Methodist Constituency of the Central Conference  
of The United Methodist Church In the Philippines

From The College of Bishops of the Central Conference of The UMC In the Philippines

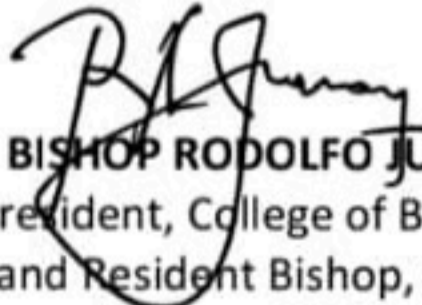
Greetings – In the Name of The Father, The Son and Holy Spirit, may joy and peace be with you.

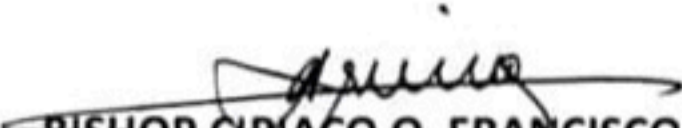
May we share with you an action of the College of Bishops. The action is that the College of Bishops, both active and retired, does not and shall not support any move that will permit same sex marriage both within and out of the UMC community. This means members of the College will not initiate any move toward this end. It also means that any move from the UMC community – by individuals, or by couples, or by sectoral organization - that will advocate this move shall be resisted by the College of Bishops.


This action of the College of Bishops is an exercise of its duty to provide episcopal oversight over the affairs of the United Methodist Church for the information and guidance of the UMC community. As such, this action does not take away, or is in opposition to, the right and prerogative of the Philippines Central Conference to legislate policies that will guide its affairs and the conduct of its constituencies. This right and prerogative is provided for in the Discipline, in consideration of the specific context in which the UMC lives and does its mission (#543.7-21, The 2016 Book of Discipline).

This episcopal oversight does not prevent people with gender orientation different from heterosexuality from becoming bona fide members of the UMC in the Philippines provided they meet the conditions of its membership. They will be cared for and ministered to without discrimination.

May you be informed and guided by this action of the College of Bishop in its exercise of episcopal oversight over the temporal and spiritual affairs of the United Methodist Church in the Philippines.

  
**BISHOP RODOLFO JUAN**  
President, College of Bishops  
and Resident Bishop, DEA  
January 10, 2022

  
**BISHOP CIRIACO G. FRANCISCO**  
Resident Bishop, MEA

  
**BISHOP PEDRO M. TORIO, JR.**  
Resident Bishop, BEA

Retired Bishops:

**BISHOP SOLITO K. TOQUERO**

**BISHOP LEO A. SORIANO**

**BISHOP BENJAMIN A. JUSTO**

**BISHOP JOSE C. GAMBOA, JR.**

**BISHOP EMERITO P. NACPIL**