



Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns & Advocacy of the Virginia Annual Conference

We the co-chairs of CEMCA, Rev. Lyle Morton and Lori Valentine de Segovia, request a moment of privilege on behalf of the Ethnic Caucuses CEMCA represents:

We your Virginia Annual Conference co-chairs of the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy or CEMCA, have been approached and have consented to facilitate a dialogue between our official Conference Ethnic Minority Caucuses, COSROW (Commission on the Status and Role of Women), and those who are responsible for orchestrating the very exclusive Virginia Delegation Election results.

We are especially concerned about a laity delegation composition that excludes Ethnic-Minority persons when the fabric of our beloved unity is torn and not reflective of the diversity of the highly qualified candidates our conference contains. On page 18, of the Book of Reports, section A, an ***inclusive church*** is defined, as in sub section 4. The conference standards outlined are in agreement with the ***Book of Discipline*** paragraph 13.2, Articles I and III.

To be clear, CEMCA and COSROW were not involved in formulating any list of “recommended candidates.”

To those who designed, organized, and disseminated the voting slate, referred to as “the list” and “the voting block”, we respectfully request that all engage in HOLY CONVERSATION with the leadership of our conference, facilitated by the CEMCA & COSROW commissions, as we move forward.

It is suggested that although the intent of our brothers and sisters to extend grace to a group marginalized at this time may have been the intent, the actions and subsequent results, have denied grace to other children of God by circumventing the process of Holy conferencing. As Bishop Malone reminded us yesterday, the hardest commandment is to love they neighbor as yourself.

As part of our commitment to the ongoing Race and Reconciliation work in our annual conference we have collected Race & Reconciliation surveys at the CEMCA display, and will be providing the survey electronically, to help guide the commissions forward, as we undertake the holy work on reconciliation.

Lori Valentine de Segovia
Laity Co-chair

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