

Congregational Boundaries Working Group

Timeline (June 2014-2015)

September 30, 2014

Items in blue typescript were proposed by staff, not the Working Group, for implementation by staff according to its timeline suggested in May 2014.

June 2014

- Issued new institutional apology at GA 2014.
- Reported to General Assembly on initial progress of Working Group.
- Offer the Safe Congregations Intake person and Consultant for Ethics in Congregational Life greater discretion around offering to provide an advocate to a person considering filing a complaint of ministerial misconduct, or to an individual who provides information about their victimization but does not step forward as the official complainant.

July 2014-2015

- Continue work, in ongoing partnership with the Religious Institute, to develop an incentive program for designated “Safe and Sexually Healthy Congregations.”

August 2014

- New apology posted on [UUA website](#); 2000 institutional apology removed.
- Propose structure and roles for Congregational Boundaries Advisory Group.

September 2014

- Discussed with Advisory Group intent and goals of (1) “national conversation” on CSM, (2) proposed report on accountability relationship between Board and MFC, and (3) review of CSM complaint process.
- Submit grant proposal for training for in FY 1015 on 5-10 advocates and then maintain a roster of trained advocates within the Office of Ethics in Congregational Life.
- Revamp landing page (on UUA website) for filing complaints to be clearer and more pastoral.

October 2014

- Report to Board on amendments proposed by MFC
- Request workshops at GA regarding (1) Safe and Sexually Healthy Congregations incentive program (offered in partnership with the Religious Institute) and (2) progress and goals of Working Group.

November 2014

- Discuss with Advisory Group and consultant draft best practices for receiving, investigating and resolving complaints of CSM

November-December 2014

- Hold trainings for district staff in working with both victims of misconduct, other forms of sexual violence, and with congregations struggling with a variety of issues related to sexually healthy and safe congregations; train interim and developmental ministers in “after pastor” ministry.

January 2015

- Submit to Board report on best practices for receiving, investigating and resolving complaints of CSM; request report from MFC on best practices

February 2015

- Discuss with Advisory Group proposed GA 2015 workshops.

March 2015

- Discuss aligning the work and promote best practices in this area with other UU organizations (LREDA, UUMN, etc.)

June 2015

- Continue Board discussion of (or approve) MFC policies and procedures related to CSM and alignment with other UU organizations

GA 2015

- Conduct workshops at GA 2015 on (1) Safe and Sexually Healthy Congregation incentive program (with Religious Institute) and (2) progress and goals of Working Group.
- Report to General Assembly on progress of Working Group.

Jan 2016

- Report to Board on progress of Working Group and staff.

GA 2016

Report to General Assembly on progress of Working Group and staff.

FY 2016

- Begin trainings every three years for key UUA staff and MFC members in sexual ethics, boundaries and legal standards.