

Dear Jim and Susan:

Attached is the work that then Ministerial Fellowship Committee was able to do on the Rules of the MFC to respond to the Board's two requests arising out of your work on ministerial misconduct.

The two requests that came to us are addressed. One was easier to address than the other. The request to insure that Investigation Teams for misconduct issues do not include MFC members is reflected in one of the amendments proposed.

The other request to invite and accommodate complainants and self-identified victims wishing to personally appear before the MFC during a Fellowship Review was more difficult to frame language around. Inviting and accomodating a person who has formally filed a complaint was the easy part, and the amendment language in the document attached accomplishes that.

The MFC spent considerable time on discussion of draft amendment language that would allow for accommodation of people or classes of people who identify or may be identified by others as victims of the misconduct. We struggled with whether such victims are self-identified or identified by others, and if so, who the others would be. We had disagreements about whether this accommodation could be made by teleconference device or only by personal appearance. We were not clear whether and how these appearances could or should be limited. We noted the obligation of the Association to pay for the costs involved, and felt uncertain about the budgetary consequences of different amendment drafts we tried on for size.

Ultimately, we ran out of time after working on two different drafts of language, and failing to reach enough of a meaningful consensus to proceed to a vote.

We are sending you the amendments we did have a unanimous vote about recommending to you for incorporation into the MFC rules. We request that the Board formally make these amendments to our Rules. If the Board has time to grapple with what you believe is the right approach to the request to accommodate victims or classes or victims in personal appearances, we would welcome further guidance from you about how you would resolve the issues that are hanging us up.

Thanks for your understanding, and for the continuing collaboration around improving our response to victims of ministerial misconduct.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Wayne Arnason

Chair, Ministerial Fellowship Committee