

## **Congregational Boundaries Working Group October 16, 2015**

In the Consent Agenda are Rule Changes adopted by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. The changes allow more than one representative or complainant to meet with the MFC Executive Committee if essential to fully understand the nature of the complaint and ensure its appropriate resolution. These were rule changes that the MFC asked the Board to propose language for, and which the MFC refined and adopted. They are now brought back to the Board because of our responsibility under the Bylaws to approve MFC Rules. I have placed them on the Consent Agenda because they are a response to the prior work of the Congregational Boundaries Group and I do not think them controversial.

However, I will be asking they be removed from the Consent Agenda in order to ask that one revision not be approved. In Rule 21A, I recommend that in the sentence beginning "The Executive Committee *may* also invite the complainant..." the revision from the word "*shall*" to "*may*" **not** be approved. I have discussed with the Chair of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee the importance of the earlier language (adopted September 2014), which ensured the complainant an opportunity to meet with the MFC Executive Committee.

The MFC has also provided the following timeline for addressing remaining items from the Congregational Boundaries:

### **Proposed Timeline for MFC Response to Best Practices Recommendations September, 2015**

Already completed to date:

September 21, 2014 UUA Board sends the MFC a proposal to Amend Rules 16B, 20 and 21.

January 1, 2015 MFC sends a response to the Board with proposed Rule Changes.

February 26, 2015 The UUA Board Working Group sends a draft Best Practices Report for handling cases of Clergy Sexual Misconduct.

April, 2015 -- Incoming and outgoing Chairs and the Chair of the Process Working group (with staff support) create second draft of policy changes to be completed responsive to the draft best practices report.

May, 2015 -- MFC Full Committee Conference Call. MFC Members vote on proposed policy changes. Wayne and staff create a complete report of Policy changes made to date and proposed Rule Changes to be voted in by the UUA Board as a result of the best practices recommendations.

June, 2015 – UUA Board discusses and offers additional edits.

July, 2015 – Working Group on Congregational Boundaries reports back to MFC with edits to proposed Rule Changes, and requests a timeline for an MFC response to 5 “best practices” areas not yet addressed.

August, 2015 – Process Working Group refines Rule Changes and agrees to propose a timeline at its meeting in September, 2015.

September, 2015 – Process Working Group proposes the following timeline going forward:



Work to be Completed

September – December 2015 Study recommendations and determine which of the remaining best practices to be addressed fall within the purview/capacity of the MFC.

April, 2016 – MFC to send an additional timeline for action and any policy changes that result from this study.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Weaver*