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**Date:** June 13, 2016 at 11:38:29 AM CDT  
**To:** James Snell <[JSnell@croinc.com](mailto:JSnell@croinc.com)>  
**Cc:** Harlan Limpert <[HLimpert@uua.org](mailto:HLimpert@uua.org)>, Sarah Lammert <[slammert@uua.org](mailto:slammert@uua.org)>  
**Subject: Re: [UUA Board] June 2016 Board Meeting Agenda**

Hi James,

Harlan and I spoke, and we want to recommend the board affirm the Redding fellowship's transition as a sort of "test case." Following the Board's April meeting, we've been proceeding as if Redding is making the transition to covenanting community, on the advice of regional staff. It's been very helpful, because while working with the Redding folks we've uncovered a whole host of strategic issues that these kinds of transitions raise: Do they need to change their name? What happens to their tax status? What are the implications for the APF? We already have a few other requests in hand for other congregations to make this transition (for which we have not determined our answer), but we want to proceed with caution. We're hoping to use Redding's "test case" to develop clearer guidelines for when it is appropriate for a congregation to make the transition to covenanting community. We anticipate having a more detailed staff conversation about these issues in July/August, and will report our recommendations back to the Board for the October meeting.

Here is what we would recommend you propose for next week's meeting, recognizing that, while the Board doesn't typically approve congregations' resignation from the UUA, this test case deserves special attention:

*"The Board affirms the transition of the Redding UU Fellowship out of UUA member congregation status so that it may be fully recognized as a covenanting community by staff. This transition is understood as an opportunity to explore what such transitions mean for the Association and to determine general guidelines for when a transition from member congregation to covenanting community is appropriate."*

I'd be happy to chat with you by phone before the meeting, or to meet up in person in Columbus before our discussion.

Warmly,

-Carey

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