

**First Unitarian Church of Chicago
Minutes of May 29, 2018 Special Board Meeting
Conducted by Conference Call**

Trustees Participating:

Joan Pederson	President
Jim Proctor	Vice President
John Eatinger	
* Joseph Harrington	
* Margot Horn	

Also Participating:

Rev. David Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister
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(* trustees who are also members of the ad hoc committee investigating an allegation of misrepresentation, along with church member Kris Barker; responding to an appeal of a decision by that committee is the purpose of this special meeting)

Joan called the meeting to order at 8:15.

Joan summarized the purpose of the meeting: to consider and act upon Finley Campbell's appeal to the board that it override a decision of the ad hoc committee investigating the allegation of misrepresentation by him at church on April 15. The decision in question was to meet with him, in accordance with the relevant policy, and with his supporting witnesses individually, but not as a group as Finley had requested.

Joe reported for the committee that the matter was still under investigation by the committee. He noted that the penalty if the allegation was borne out would be two years of ineligibility for positions of leadership and for service as a church delegate. He wanted unfettered, unbiased testimony from each witness.

Margot noted that it was unclear to the committee that any of those identified by Finley as supporting witnesses had actually witnessed the April 15 episode that was the basis of the allegation.

Joe reported Finley's sense of a meeting with Interim Minister Rev. Barbara Gadon and President John Saphir in 2012–13 that led to differing accounts of what had occurred; he thought Finley's reason for wanting a group interview might be to deter another experience like that one.

Discussion followed. Key points:

- Granting the appeal would open the door to infinite appeals and delay. Do not do it.

- The name of the person who reported the episode to the ministers has not been shared with Finley. It will be included in the committee's final report to the board.
- The heart of the issue is not about the content of anyone's views or whether someone reading them is comfortable with them. Rather, it is a breach of trust regarding the relationship with the whole congregation.
- Reading and understanding the policy to be clear about misrepresentation was important for the committee's work and its interview with the person who reported the episode.

Question: shall the Board of Trustees grant or deny the request by member Finley Campbell to override the decision of the ad hoc committee to meet with him and others individually but not as a group? The vote was 4-0 to deny the request. (The president abstained, as usual when there is no tie to be broken.)

Joe reported that the committee's report will be completed before the June 14 board meeting, and that of the two witnesses Finley identified, one as no knowledge of the episode and declines to meet and the other has not yet been reached. Finley has no available times to meet.

Joan adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.