

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Re: Representatives confer from Ministry Commission and Higher Education and Ministry Legislative Committee on Disciplinary discrepancies (Paragraphs 334.1 and 337) re. Guaranteed Appointment

Contact: David Bard, HEM Legislative Committee Chair (pastor@fumcduluth.com)
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1. The intent of the HEM legislative committee was clear, even if our action was not as clear as our intent, and the intent was the elimination of the language of security of appointment. In creating “transitional leave” for elders, we made that clear, and appointment to such a leave still constitutes an appointment.(ref. Paragraph 334.1)
2. The General Conference plenary also intended the elimination of the language of security of appointment when it voted not to reconsider the legislative committee action on paragraph 337.
3. The issue of the relationship between paragraphs 334 and 337 is being considered by the Council of Bishops and we need to let them do their work.

Any final conclusions about the constitutionality of the language or actions re. security of appointment would be premature until a ruling from the Judicial Council in Fall 2012. The process needs to be allowed to move forward.