

Date: June 16, 2023

To: Christine Calareso Bleecker, Karen Smith, Justin Charles, Sarah Klinger, Complainants

Subject: Notice of Initial Decision by Board

via email only

The Officers Committee of the Board of Commissioners met on June 4, 2023, and included on its agenda the complaint form electronically signed by the complainants listed above on April 27, 2023, along with supporting documentation. These were filed with the ATS Commission on Accrediting in accordance with [ATS Commission Policies and Procedures](#) IX.B. against NORTHERN SEMINARY, SPECIFICALLY ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES, INCLUDING CHAIR WYATT HOCH.

In accordance with *Policies and Procedures* IX.B.3, the complaint and its supporting documentation was reviewed by Commission staff and then referred for further Board review.

After reviewing the complaint form and exhibits in light of the pertinent [ATS Commission Standards of Accreditation](#) and *Policies and Procedures*, the Officers Committee of the Board of Commissioners voted:

1. To receive the complaint filed by Christine Calareso Bleecker with Karen Smith, Justin Charles, and Sarah Klinger on April 27, 2023, naming Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.
2. To determine that the complaint has standing (*Policies and Procedures*, IX.B.1).
3. To require that the school respond within 30 business days (see Standard 9 opening paragraph; Standard 10.2).

The effective date of the above action is **June 15, 2023**, with required response from the school within 30 business days of this notification per *Policies and Procedures* IX.B.4(.2), i.e., no later than **July 28, 2023**.

As per *Policies and Procedures*, once the school's response is submitted the Board will make one of three possible final decisions described in IX.B.6, and typically notify the complainant(s) and the school within 15 business days of the action (see IX.B.7).

Please contact me directly with any questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie Rempel

Valerie Rempel, MA, PhD | Director of Accreditation, Complaints Officer

The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting

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