

**From:** Board Of Trustees Chair - Northwestern College  
**Sent:** Mon 6/16/2008 4:44 PM  
**Subject:** Notice of Board Action

#### FROM THE NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On June 9, 2008, three current members and one former member of the Northwestern College Board of Trustees, against the best wishes of the rest of the Northwestern College Board of Trustees, met together to draft an action against the current leadership of the college. Faced with no other productive alternative and based upon the recommendation of the Board Governance Committee, an overwhelming majority of the trustees voted unanimously to have the remaining three dismissed from the board.

The Board of Trustees regrets that they were compelled to take this action; that these three current board members spoke with other members of the Northwestern Community to voice their opposition to previous board decisions; that they met together in a semi-official capacity outside the essential limitations of board policy; and that they drafted an ultimatum that directly opposed the action of majority of the board, the leadership of the Governance Committee, the authority of the Board Chair, and the rules and by-laws of Northwestern College.

Before the trustees were dismissed, the Northwestern College Board first sought counsel from a number of legal and institutional experts. The results were conclusive. An email from Dr. Robert Andringa of The Andringa Group, a well-established national authority on board governance, typifies the prevailing response: "The principles are clear. Once a board makes a decision, all members are required to abide by and defend it when asked. Personal opinions of the minority have no relevance at that point and must not be discussed outside the boardroom. This is only one of the reasons, but the main one, that boards are led to terminate a trustee."

The New Testament clearly demonstrates that sometimes as a last resort, for the sake of unity, it is necessary for members of Christ's kingdom to part ways. It is always a sad state of affairs when God-honoring believers of like-minds and hearts are unable to mend their differences. The Northwestern College Board of Trustees considers all of its trustees, past and present, to be brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing a commitment to the mission and historical conservative evangelical heritage of Northwestern College, and to the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for Christ's wisdom, courage and grace as we move forward.