

Minutes  
Open and Affirming Committee  
February 12, 2008

Present: Gail Hall, Stephanie Heneghan, Tim Dostie, Wendy Ware, Katie Hoffman-Fulda, Michael Bower, Bob Inderbitzen, Pat Howland, Ron Robbins, Laurel Cole and Bill Hoffman

Absent and missed: Mary Dean, Tom Rolfe, and Steve Smith.

The meeting opened at 7:33 with a prayer by Katie Hoffman-Fulda.

Minutes of January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting were approved as written.

At 7:40 PM, the group subdivided into subcommittees, which met until 8:30 PM. Each summarized its discussions as follows:

**What is ONA?**

The committee completed the structure of the March 9 program. The components will be:

- The UCC's definition of ONA
- Answers to the related questions posed by the congregation in the Open Forum and the Suggestion Boxes
- A map locating local churches that have adopted a formal ONA statement
- A time line of UCC social justice issues
- Perhaps a showing of a UCC video
- Questions and answers

It was agreed that the other 2 subcommittees would handle beverages and dessert for this program.

**Biblical Interpretation**

The Rev. Dr. Wayne Rollins will present a second hour program on April 27. Dr Rollins is a Biblical scholar with considerable experience presenting on the ONA issue.

Jonathan and Donna have volunteered to preface this session with a generic program on how to interpret the Bible. All enthusiastically accepted this offer. It will be held on April 6.

The subcommittee adopted a Covenant for meeting participation that will be posted on a flip chart. The "What is ONA" subcommittee will use the covenant in their program as well.

**Communications**

The website redesign was accepted for release. A few suggestions were made.

The group started a discussion about the video recording of our programs for the benefit of members who cannot attend. Pat will ask Dr. Rollins about this.

Several new resources are now available to us. Bob purchased a package of materials from the UCC. Bill has been in touch with Micki Nunmiller, who provided references to help us locate churches that decided not to adopt a formal ONA statement. David Dean and the Newington church were also identified as resources.

Next meeting will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> Gail will give the opening prayer and Bill will close.

Laurel closed the meeting with prayer at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hall  
Substitute Secretary