

Minutes
February 17, 2009

Present: Gail Hall, Bob Inderbitzen, Stephanie Heneghan, Wendy Ware, Michael Bower, Bill Hoffman, Laurel Cole, Pat Howland, Katie Hoffman-Fulda, Mary Dean, and Steve Smith.

Absent: Tim Dostie, Tom Rolfe, Ron Robbins

Called to order at 7:06 with a prayer led by Bill Hoffman.

Minutes of January 20th were approved as written.

Bible Study recap: Attendance was 6 in first session, 8 or 9 in the 2nd session and 4 at the last session. The feeling was that the committee had done due diligence and that as many people as possible were reached. Meetings were civil. Context and guidance were provided for each. Bob will get the hand out materials for the 2nd and 3rd sessions to Steve to post to the web site.

ONA Impact data collection: Stef reported that Donna and Jonathan are working on it for us.

GOP March 1st status: GOP members plus Nancy Edwards are meeting prior to the March 1st event to plan it. The group is looking for some direction. Stephanie and Mary will be at their meeting to help them reach a consensus on how they should present their experiences.

Ken Brooks, Newington, representing a Church who had gone through a process more recently was approached by Mary to see what his experience was. His Church didn't actually go through an ONA process. His Church came up with a broad mission statement rather than an ONA process.

Gail wondered whether Bill Bartley, formerly of Newington, had any knowledge about Newington's experience and whether that experience might be good to have on the upcoming panel. Steve will talk to Bill Bartley about his knowledge about what happened in Newington.

Food for the event will be like that which was provided for Stonewall Speakers. Final planning for food will come at the next meeting of the Committee. Bill will circulate with the clipboard during second hour next week to encourage signups. Bill will also do an announcement in Church.

Newsweek article. General consensus that we shouldn't promote it. The author has no credentials.

ONA Advisory Committee Update: What's going to happen next? Group is devising a road map for the process after the ONA committee is done. The advisory committee is urging us to make a recommendation with our final report. After we are done, the assumption is that it is going to move towards a vote. An ONA statement would have to be developed. A new group will be formed to draft a statement. All of our materials would stay available. Diaconate will deliberate and report to the

Council. Between the Council and the diaconate a decision will be made if it will be a public or a private vote. Time line looks like September for a vote. The Advisory committee will be coming to our next meeting.

Our committee felt that the diaconate should finish by June. Discussion on how the ONA (our) committee could come up with a statement that the new committee could use as a basis for something that could be brought to the congregation. Feeling was strongly voiced that waiting for September would be too long to wait. Discussion too on whether the ministers will make a statement on ONA. From the sounds of it, a statement might not be forthcoming. The committee felt that a statement should be made.

Bob wondered whether the church should create a standing Council committee to monitor ONA after a vote should it pass.

Gail asked whether transgender should be part of the statement.

Next meeting: 2-26. Prayer volunteers Wendy and Gail.

Meeting adjourned with prayer led by Stephanie at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully,

Steve Smith
Secretary