

Minutes
February 26, 2009

Present: ONA Advisory Committee (Deb Copes, Ruth Fitzgerald, Donna Manocchio and Jonathan Lee)
ONA Committee: Gail Hall, Mary Dean, Tim Dostie, Bill Hoffman, Stephanie Heneghan, Wendy Ware, Pat Howland, Laurel Cole, Katy Hoffman-Fulda, Ron Robbins, Michael Bower and Steve Smith
Absent: Bob Inderbitzen and Tom Rolfe

Meeting opened at 7:01 pm with a prayer led by Wendy Ware.

Minutes from February 17, 2009 were adopted without change.

ONA Advisory Committee members were introduced and discussion occurred on concerns raised by the ONA committee at the February 17th meeting.

1. Time line. The Committee was concerned about a time line for a vote on the process ending in September rather than June. Hearing that the longer time line was designed to give the Diaconate time to draft an ONA statement, the Committee volunteered to create an ONA statement that could be brought to the Diaconate with its recommendation in April. The Diaconate would then endeavor to get a statement for adoption to the Council for action later that month and in time to schedule a meeting on the last Sunday in June (June 28th).

Jonathan and others on the advisory committee thought that it would be important to have a series of meetings / forums prior to the vote to get people comfortable with the intent of the statement rather than the words themselves.

2. Voting type. Advisory committee highly recommends a paper ballot as a way to make everyone comfortable with the result. Mary mentioned that the GOP had thoughts too that it is important who counts the ballots. An outside parliamentarian is available from the Conference. Absentee ballots will be available to allow those who cannot attend the meeting on the 28th to still vote.
3. Public statements by the pastor(s) on ONA? Jonathan polled each of the committee members on what they wanted; should he make a statement and whether he should take a position. Differing valid views were presented, but the majority felt that Jonathan should take a position. Concerns were raised on whether Donna would be able to maintain her neutrality once Jonathan made a statement. Jonathan continues to ponder whether he should make a statement.
4. Discussion on the Committee's end process and forum(s). The forums would be a general presentation of how we got to the point of having a recommendation, a description of the ONA Statement and a very informal discussion. It is probable that the ONA Committee will be disbanded after its final report... perhaps in May.

ONA Advisory committee members left after the discussion.

GOP (Grumpy Old Pastors) Second Hour. Mary handed out an outline for the program. She expressed concerns raised by members if weather is bad, as predicted. A decision will be made Sunday morning if the program will be postponed. First rain/snow date would be the end of March. Child care will be provided.

Mary asked for input on the program outline.

Lunch will be served prior to the program. Gail will open the second hour and welcome. Wendy will do the prayer. Behavioral covenant will be displayed on the projector screen. Mary will moderate. An announcement will be made in Church on March 1st by Bob.

Next meetings are March 12th and March 24th. The last date might be the final one for the committee if a statement can be drafted and a final report written. Gail will distribute some high-level questions about a week prior to the next meeting. Committee members were asked to study statements and how our recommendations should be drafted before the next meeting.

Prayers for the next meeting: Michael to open and Mary will close.

Meeting adjourned with prayer led by Gail at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith