

Open and Affirming Committee  
Minutes  
January 10, 2007

Present: Gail Hall, Stephanie Heneghan, Tim Dostie, Ron Robbins, Wendy Ware, Bill Hoffman, Steve Smith, Katie Hoffman-Fulda, Michael Bower, Bob Inderbitzen  
Absent: Tom Rolfe, Mary Dean, Pat Howland, Laurel Cole

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 with a moment of silence.

Minutes of December 11<sup>th</sup> were revised. The paragraph on input from the advisory committee recommendations was revised. Other language was added on the survey and how it might be revisited in the future. Bill will correct the draft and get it to Gail to post on the ONA site.

Gail spoke to the Committee about doing a Lenten series worship. ONA will be doing March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The group broke into committees and reconvened at 8:45 pm.

Each of the 3 committees reported their progress.

**1. ONA**

The Committee is charged with the Lenten series worship service on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be "What is ONA?". The committee is starting its work with researching a time line for UCC resolutions on social justice issues. They will seek to see when these resolutions were incorporated into our local Church. They will talk about the description of ONA on the website as "what is ONA" and will talk about what churches around the country have done as well as those in this area. Looking also for churches who haven't gone ONA after starting the process. Checking on UCC resolutions on social justice so that we can relate this (ONA) as well. Will also talk about our church constitution and when our Church amended the constitution to reflect social issues from UCC.

**2. Bible**

Talked about different interpretations of the Bible. Group brainstormed and agreed to make a plan in the future. Talked about how to not make the issue polarizing. Group did a kind of role playing. Who would be the experts to help interpret the Bible? What Bible would be used? Link the expert presentations to discussions in small groups immediately following it so that people have a chance to speak freely.

**3. Communications**

Communications will work to enrich the Church Web site's ONA area. Directed mailings when subjects are ready to be disseminated will be a mechanism for the committee. Talked about posters displayed in an as-yet undetermined "ONA Area." A church-wide e-mail distribution was also tentatively discussed as a possible future additional way to communicate.

The next meeting is February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Wendy will open the meeting with a prayer. Mary will close.

Respectfully,

Steve Smith, Secretary