

Minutes
January 20, 2009

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

Absent: Ron Robbins

Meeting called to order at 7:08 with prayer led by Michael Bower.

Minutes of December 16th were approved as written.

Bible discussion. The first discussion group featured a small turn out but was deemed a success. Bill Hoffman handed out a summary of the first session. He'll prepare an electronic copy to be posted to the web page. Next discussion will be Tuesday, January 27.

Printed materials on Genetics. Brief discussion occurred on the materials assembled by Bob Inderbitzen. It was felt that some of the materials would help address the concern on transgender and bisexuality raised with Jonathan by a congregation member. All materials will be posted to the web site and made available in the ONA Library.

4th Theme. GOP (4 pastors) will give a panel presentation March 1st. They will address three (3) topics:

- 1- How did ONA (the process and the vote) affect your congregation? What were the surprises, touching moments, uncomfortable encounters, un-anticipated graces.
- 2- Looking back ... how did your congregation look/feel different after an ONA vote... or a decision not to take a vote?
- 3- Any regrets.. or "notes-to-self" for next time?

Discussion occurred on whether the panel should be supplemented by a couple of additional members with more recent experience. Should one of them be a woman and have a woman's perspective?

The committee decided to pass along these suggestions to the panel for consideration for inclusion in the program on March 1st.

Additional discussion occurred on whether to have small group discussions after the last program is done? There didn't seem to be consensus for it.

Additional discussion occurred on an early assertion to the Committee that Wethersfield dropped from the UCC because of ONA. What happened there? Could the GOP talk about this too?

Data collection based on Stephanie Heneghan's survey questions will start shortly with Donna and Jonathan doing the survey.

The ONA Advisory committee will be meeting soon. They'll be invited to a meeting in March to discuss the end game for the process.

Next meeting February 17th to work out final steps of process.

Another meeting was scheduled for February 26th for pre-GOP panel planning.

Prayer volunteers for February 17:

Bill Hoffman to start, Stephanie Heneghan to end.

The meeting closed in prayer led by Laurel Cole at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith