

Minutes  
Open and Affirming Committee  
January 22, 2007

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

The meeting opened at 7:33 with a prayer by Wendy Ware.

Minutes of January 10<sup>th</sup> were approved as written.

Before breaking into subcommittees, Gail asked each group to consider what they would need for funds out of next year's Diaconate budget.

At 7:40 PM, the group subdivided into subcommittees which met until 8:50 PM. Each summarized its discussions as follows:

**Communications** talked about a new web site. The site would coordinate ONA Committee Minutes as well as anything that had already been posted on the private website if the contributors agreed to have them publicly posted. The page might have an e-mail link to give the ONA committee feedback. Bill's time line could be incorporated into it with links to the subjects covered. ONA resource materials would also be published. Subjects might match the ONA subcommittee structure. We'd also talk about how we monitor the suggestion boxes... a count of what we've received and the general subjects broached. We might also have each of our presentations put together into Power Point presentations for those who missed the second hour or as a historical record of what had happened. Draft of web site for next meeting before it gets published.

**What is ONA?**

The committee talked about how the program would be structured. They are going to review an Open and Affirming video from UCC. They will also be talking to a resource person at the conference office. They plan a slide show to go on web site and/or play at coffee hour when done. They continue to work on a time line on social justice resolutions in order to put the issue into the context of our Church history.

**Bible**

Would like a speaker who would facilitate a meeting where smaller groups break out to discuss Bible topics. Some passages may be developed ahead of time to hand out at the meeting. General description of how the Bible is structured. Old versus New Testament might be a dividing line for topics for the first meeting. The committee would like to get people to talk freely in small groups after an overview by the speaker. They will develop covenants to be adopted before they break into groups. Limited discussion occurred on perhaps incorporating a Church service with a sermon/talk by the speaker followed by a second hour.

Gail briefly discussed funding for next year's budget. The consensus was that \$500 would be adequate.

Next meeting was rescheduled to February 12<sup>th</sup>

Laurel Cole let the group know of her new e-mail address, [sheehancole@att.net](mailto:sheehancole@att.net).

For the next meeting, opening prayer will be led by Katie and closing by Laurel.

Mary led a closing exercise.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith  
Secretary