

ONA June 12, 2008  
Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 7:34 with a prayer led by Wendy

Minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup> were adopted as written.

The Committee reviewed the Charter, the Behavioral Covenant and Congregational input to see if we continue to be on track.

Bill said that he is still following up on some of the unanswered questions from the "What is ONA?" session. He is having difficulty getting a firm number from the UCC on how many Churches have left the UCC because of ONA. He's also not been able to determine how many Churches have started the process and have not completed it.

Outstanding issues:

Dialog sermon... Jonathan and Donna are planning for September 28<sup>th</sup>. We will consider doing an open forum for discussion afterward if Donna and Jonathan think it would be appropriate.

Summer Videos.. One Video to date went well. Future showings. Evening showings will be in Parlor. Sundays have to remain in the Chapel so far.

June 17<sup>th</sup> "For the Bible Tells Me So" 7pm Mary and Wendy

June 19<sup>th</sup> "Open and Affirming" Bob and Pat

June 22<sup>nd</sup> "For the Bible Tells Me So" After coffee...Gail and Katie

June 18<sup>th</sup> 9 am Quilters – second hour DVD...Stephanie

July 22<sup>nd</sup> "For the Bible Tells Me So" 7 pm Tom?

July 24<sup>nd</sup> "Open and Affirming" 7pm Bill

July 27<sup>th</sup> "For the Bible Tells Me So" after coffee, Steve and Deb Copes

The Committee discussed a communication to go out to the Congregation this summer. The general theme will be where have we been and where are we going next year. It may be part of the Summer Church Mouse or a separate mailing. General consensus that the mailing/article be visually short and simple using the four themes, perhaps a grid with a checkmark denoting completion. We may or may not include a printed copy of the Moment of Concern from June 1 We will plan for this to be mailed in August.

Gail handed out a note from Grace Cole, printed below:

To the ONA Committee from Grace Cole

In Peter's vision or dream of the great sheet Acts 10:- 9-16 Peter said he did not eat anything common or unclean. The voice that spoke to him said what God hath cleansed that he should not call it common or unclean.

Could this be applied to Gay or Lesbian? If God created man and woman with a typical sex orientation, shouldn't those individuals be acceptable on equal status with the so called "normal" man and woman?

I have heard the argument that an individual chooses his sex orientation to be gay or lesbian. That choice is considered wrong and is put down. If a person doesn't choose his/her orientation, but is created that way he or she should be respect just as much as a heterosexual person.

Does this interpretation make sense? Could this make a good discussion topic?

Gail, focusing on our fall process, thought that we need to disband our old committees and create two new; concentrating on a continuation of the biblical discussion begun during the previous year and another that will concentrate on the theme of what it means to be gay.

The Committee discussed this at length and tentatively decided to maintain a small core group of members (Ron, Bill, Tim and Bob) who would pursue the biblical discussion further and have the balance of the committee pursue the "what it means to be gay" topic.

Tom asked that we consider renaming our 4<sup>th</sup> topic "How will this affect US and OUR beloved Church." Everyone agreed to the change.

Next meeting, August 19<sup>th</sup>.to be held at Stephanie's house. The Subcommittees were urged to meet at least once over the summer if they could. Opening prayer by Mary. Closing prayer by Gail.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 with closing prayer led by Katie.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith