

ONA
March 12, 2009

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

The February 26th Minutes were adopted as written.

GOP debrief

A note from Gordon Bates was passed around to the Committee members. Mary read an e-mail from him as well. General consensus was that the program went well and was well received.

Jonathan's sermon was discussed as well. The members very much appreciated it.

Recommendations

1. Steve will write a final report from the Committee and will circulate it prior to the next meeting.
2. The committee unanimously felt that a vote on ONA should be taken.
3. Transgender should be included (unanimously).
4. No comment from us on voting or a mechanism for it. Diaconate has already decided this.
5. Tallying votes is up to Diaconate. No recommendation from us. Diaconate already decided this.
6. Add a recommendation that a continuing committee to monitor ONA ... a welcoming or outreach committee. Our recommendation would be to encourage 3 things. 1. A vote by congregation on ONA, 2. To consider amending the constitution to amend the statement of faith and 3. To add a continuing committee.

On a motion(Inderbitzen-Hoffman), the following recommendations were unanimously adopted:

1. Congregational vote on a statement of inclusion and diversity
2. That the diaconate of council establish an ad hoc committee to further this work in the future
3. That the statement of faith in the constitution be expanded to include new groups.

ONA Statement

A committee was formed to write a ONA statement before the next meeting. It will create a draft, circulate it and have a vote at the next meeting. Committee members are Stephanie, Laurel and Michael.

The committee discussed what should and what should not be included. The general consensus was that it be brief. Also that it not have background, nor social justice and that it should list elements to be addressed. There was brief discussion of including a Biblical reference. Maybe a quote from Jesus? "Jesus taught us to love each other....?" The language in the constitution? "Because love is a unifying and strengthening force within our Christian faith." The committee will take these elements into consideration for the draft statement.

Mailing

Gail would like to have a mailing. Seemingly the rest of the group did not favor a mailing. The committee thought that we could have a phrase in a mouse article saying that we have answers to the previously posed questions and directing readers to where they can get them (web page or Library). A lot of these could be put in an article in the Mouse along with the results of Jonathan and Donna's survey. These could also be posted to the web site. Gail will coordinate an article to answer the outstanding questions.

Next Meeting March 24th at 7 pm.

Prayers next time: Pat open, Ron closes

Closing prayer by Mary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith