

ONA May 20, 2008
Minutes

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

Absent: Ron Robbins

Meeting began at 7:35 with a prayer led by Laurel Cole.

Corrected Minutes of April 8th were adopted.

Additional feedback from other sources.

Gail reported that she had given an update on our process at the Council meeting the previous week. One Council member thought that we are right on target with our approach... not in people's faces, but giving people the opportunity to participate. The Council was in general very supportive of our process.

Gail also had an item from the suggestion box which she shared with the Committee. The gist of the unsigned letter is that people feel cowed into silence by the advocates of the process. The Committee discussed this at length.

Moment of Concern planning.

- Should we specifically reference the letter from the suggestion box?
- There was extensive discussion on our mission. The theme of the discussion was that the majority of the committee has a personal bias towards becoming an Open and Affirming Church. Any bias is irrelevant given the buy in by the entire committee to the charge from the diaconate to promote a dialogue in the Church. We are doing that well but have only just begun the process.
- Bob gave an example to the Committee of how he was approached on the subject of same sex marriage in the Church before the committee was formed. He used the name of the person who spoke with him in order to given the example context.
- Katie wanted to acknowledge the signed letter we got from Chris Palazzolo as well as the letter that Michael wrote.
- Consensus that the moment of concern should take place during the first Sunday in June. Gail and Steve will work on content. The committee suggested that we be clear that individual committee members may have personal bias, but that bias should not be perceived as something that would prevent a full dialogue within the Church on Open and Affirming. We strongly feel that a fully participative dialogue is our goal and we want everyone to feel comfortable that they have a way to express their feelings and views on the subject through the many channels we have provided for communication. We are concerned that some feel that they cannot engage in the dialogue.

Future programming ideas:

- Liturgical Dialogue during worship with Donna and Jonathan (and perhaps others) conducting the dialogue.
- Summer movies, June 8th after coffee hour, followed by other dates and times in June and July. Katie and Michael will set up the first meeting. Two committee members will be present at each session.
- Stephanie will meet with the Quilters to see if/when they want to see a movie.

Next (and perhaps last for the season) meeting, June 12th

Opening prayer – Wendy
Close prayer – Katie

Meeting closed with prayer led by Michael at 8:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith