

November 18, 2008

Minutes

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

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Katie Hoffman-Fulda.

Minutes of October 28, 2008 were approved as written.

Gail handed out a compilation of suggestion box submissions. She asked that the committee review the list to make sure that all had been addressed. The consensus was that we had.

**Briefing on Diaconate and Advisory Committee meeting**

Gail described her meetings with the Diaconate and with the ONA Advisory Committee. With regard to the Diaconate, she was pleased that so many of them had either attended meetings or had visited the web site. She reported that they are on the same page as the committee on schedule, i.e. the committee's work to be complete in time for the April Diaconate meeting.

With regard to the Advisory committee, Gail reported that they are very supportive of the committee's work. They liked the schedule for the committee to complete its work. They thought that the "Nature versus Nurture" subject might be presented as an article rather than as a program.

**Review of the web site**

The Committee reviewed changes to the web site.

**Nature versus Nurture**

After some discussion, the consensus of the committee was that a mailing should be made of an article or a series of articles on the subject. We will make a decision at the next meeting after we see where the Stonewall Speakers program takes this topic.

**Stonewall Speakers**

The committee learned that 40 people had signed up for the program. The Committee also discovered that there is a conflict on Sunday with a youth group event which was rescheduled from October 23. Bob will talk to Stacie about delaying the event a little so that youth could participate.

Off subject discussion occurred on the sense of many members of the congregation that they may be ready to vote on a resolution. Most of the input for this came from the visioning process held the week before where each group heard discussion on how the committee should move along and finish the process earlier rather than later.

The committee felt that it was important to finish the 4 part process that it had been following in order to follow through on all the questions raised by the congregation at the beginning of the process. Perhaps something should be said in Church about the end point of the process.?

### **Stonewall program continued**

Michael will make an announcement in church this Sunday about the second hour program. Review was made of the food assignments. 7-10 sandwiches each from the 7 volunteers. Tables will be set up early on Sunday. Steve will get a check from the Diaconate for the speakers. No video recording will be made. Bob will pursue audio recording. Bob will also come up with a responsive reading with the behavioral covenant printed on it for a handout at the beginning of the program.

### **Bible Studies**

Dates have been chosen. Verses have been chosen for first 2 sessions. 3<sup>rd</sup> session format and verses will depend upon the results of the first 2 sessions.

### **Theme 4. Stef's research**

Steph contacted UCC staff who were supportive but not terribly helpful. She conducted some research into Churches which have completed the process in various ways (ONA decision imposed without process, ONA process started and stopped and started again through completion and ONA processes which failed).

There are potentially seven area churches which may fit these categories. She will, in consultation with our clergy contact them in writing or by phone to see whether they would contribute a panel member to describe their particular process and answer questions.

Next Meeting was set for December 16.

Prayers: Pat (opening) and Tom (closing).

Ron Robbins closed the meeting with prayer at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith