

ONA
October 16, 2008

Present: Gail Hall, Stephanie Heneghan, Wendy Ware, Michael Bower, Tom Rolfe, Bill Hoffman, Laurel Cole, Ron Robbins, Steve Smith, and Mary Dean.

Absent and missed: Pat Howland, Bob Inderbitzen, Tim Dostie and Katie Hoffman-Fulda

Meeting started at 7:10 pm

Opening prayer led by Michael.

Minutes were approved as written.

Ron told the Committee that he had a new e-mail address. It is rfrobbins@cox.net

Public acknowledgement that Katie was missing her first meeting.

Debrief from Dialog Sermon, second hour. Various members talked about how the second hour was a very good discussion, deeper than others that have occurred in the past. Interesting that discussion went back and forth on whether Donna or Jonathan should take a side, finally concluding that they should not. New people attended which was very encouraging. Laurel said that Chris had been contacted by 5 people who thought that ONA might not go to a congregational vote. Literal listening of sermon and re-reading it makes it sound like the Deacons could decide to implement ONA without a vote. Follow up to correct that impression will occur.

What it Means To be Gay

Stonewall Speakers. Mary handed out two handouts. One of the handouts was a write up of a Stonewall speakers session given at Middlesex Community College. She read the article. General discussion on whether we were comfortable with the upcoming program. The group was. Stonewall will be in Church on November 23rd. Food for Stonewall. Everyone will bring 3 or 4 sandwiches. Various other hosting duties were assigned.

There was lots of discussion on why people won't attend programs. No specific conclusion was determined.

Bible Study

The group has created a template for the sessions. It is waiting for guidance from Jonathan on the program. It was generally decided that 3 sessions would be more than enough and they will probably begin in January of 2009.

Bishop Coates' letter to the Committee was discussed. It was generally determined that Gail's letter thanking him for his input was appropriate and sufficient.

There was lengthy discussion of the theme “What it means to be Gay” and whether the group should highlight the born gay versus a life choice element of the subject. Further discussion will occur in the future, after the Stonewall Speakers presentation.

Discussion occurred on whether to have a meeting on October 28th? A decision was made to meet and begin discussion of our 4th topic, “How ONA will affect us and our beloved Church.” If the Bible study committee is ready for more input, the Committee will discuss that topic too.

Prayer volunteers, Wendy opening and Laurel-closing.

Closing prayer by Bill.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith