

October 28, 2008
Minutes

Present: Gail Hall, Stephanie Heneghan, Wendy Ware, Michael Bower, Bill Hoffman, Laurel Cole, Pat Howland, Katie Hoffman-Fulda and Tim Dostie and Steve Smith

Absent and missed: Bob Inderbitzen, Mary Dean and Tom Rolfe

Meeting called to order with a prayer by Wendy.

October 16th Minutes were adopted by acclamation.

Finalize Bible Study

In his absence, Bob sent a written update:

- 1) Jonathan has reviewed the subcommittee planning, and has agreed to prepare some neutral commentary to help introduce the selected bible readings. He's doing this now for the 4 readings selected for sessions 1 and 2.
- 2) The subcommittee has completed "questions for discussion" for session 1. We still have to complete questions for session 2.
- 3) Session 3 will be devoted to additional readings as suggested by attendees from sessions 1 and 2. Once sessions 1 and 2 have taken place, and we've identified the additional readings, we'll need to prepare session 3 discussion questions (and commentary from Jonathan).

The Committee discussed dates for the sessions. It appeared that there were no week night dates available in November or December. The Committee will look on calendar dates and come up with a couple of Tuesday or Thursday nights in January. Steve and Gail will publicize as soon as dates are determined.

Stonewall Speakers

Gail asked whether anything else had to be done. Everything looks ready. A list of assignments will be circulated before the event to remind us of what we agreed to do.

Review of Outstanding Questions

The questions that remain all belong in the Theme 4 area.

Theme 4 Discussion "How ONA will affect us and our beloved Church."

Pat thought that we might get a lot of input from the Church Council's visioning session on November 11th.

Gail would like to see us offer a panel from three different Churches who 1. Adopted ONA, 2. Stopped the process 3. Voted against ONA. Two additional representatives might be from a congregation that stopped and started the ONA process again and a congregation that left the UCC because of ONA. The panel would run as a town hall type of meeting. would be an effective way to run the meeting. The Committee discussed the concept. In general the Committee was not keen on the 5th subject area (Churches leaving UCC because of ONA), but was in favor of the approach in general.

Gail suggested that someone from the committee get in touch with Micki Nunn-Miller from the Council to see if she had any suggestions for congregations and then speak with Rev Bob Land from First Church in Windsor and/or Rev. Van Parker from Center Church from their own suggestions. Stephanie will begin the process. The panel would convene in February after the Bible Study is done.

Michael thought that it might be good to follow this up with small group discussions on this before closing out our ONA process. Format could be a mock debate format. Make people break into groups randomly. This could occur in March. This would complete our process hopefully in time for the Deaconate and the Council to act in time for a Congregational meeting in the Spring. Gail will talk with the Advisory Committee to get a sense of their schedule. We'd all like to have the process and vote complete before the summer.

Next meeting date:

Single meeting only in November, November 18th for 2 hours starting a 7:00 pm

Prayers for that meeting.: Ron will do closing prayer. Katie will do opening prayer.

The meeting closed at 8:21 pm with prayer by Laurel.