

Open and Affirming Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
September 27, 2007

Present: Gail Hall, Chairman  
Michael Bower, Mary Dean, Laurel Cole, Deb Copes, Joan Diaz, Tim Dostie, Katie Hoffman-Fulda, Bob Interbitzen, Bill Hoffman, Pat Howland, Stephanie Heneghan, Ron Robbins, Tom Rolfe, Steve Smith, and Wendy Ware

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Deb Copes, representing the Diaconate, thanked everyone for coming to serve on the committee and reviewed the committee's reporting structure. The Committee will report to the Diaconate and an advisory committee composed of Jonathan Lee, Donna Manocchio, Ruth Fitzgerald, Gail Hall and Deb Copes.

She also reviewed the charge of the committee. The charge is for the committee to provide the congregation with information on Open and Affirming and to educate the congregation on what ONA means so that it can come to an informed decision on whether the church should become ONA.

She also reviewed the committee membership criteria:

1. Expressed an interest in ONA during the visioning process
2. Expressed an interest in joining the committee after the second hour in July
3. An active member of the Church

She then turned the meeting over to Gail Hall.

Gail asked each member to give a short statement covering the following:

1. How they were involved in the Church
2. Something from their personal life for which they are proud
3. Why they are interested in the ONA process
4. What they feared about the process

The Committee then began discussing "housekeeping" items.

1. A committee roster with names, addresses, telephone numbers as well as e-mail addresses was passed out and each committee member was asked to review its accuracy.
2. Steve Smith volunteered to be Secretary for the committee.
3. The Committee discussed a meeting schedule. It was generally decided that the committee would meet twice a month. The Committee will attempt to meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The first two meetings were scheduled for Thursday, October 11 and Tuesday, October 23. A regular further schedule of meetings will evolve as the committee begins its work.

4. Covenant

- There will be no co-chair but individuals from the Committee may run meetings in the absence of the chair
- Meetings will open and close with a prayer
- No personal attacks / Disagree with other's opinions with respect
- Information sharing: E-mail is a good mechanism for getting out information. Private web space may be obtained to store shared materials.
- A lending library of ONA materials will be established somewhere in the Church
- Meetings will start promptly and will last no more than 90 minutes
- Only one person at a time will speak during meetings
- Committee discussions are not shared unless the Committee as a whole agrees to share them. The exception would be reporting to the Diaconate or the Advisory Committee.
- The Committee will hold periodic public forums to share information and as part of the ONA education process

5. Next meeting agenda topic is to discuss the Committee's charge and to come up with a mission/objective statement and, if time permits, an action plan. Wendy Ware will open the meeting with prayer and the meeting's closing prayer will be led by Steve Smith.

The Committee joined hands in prayer to close the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smith