

Minutes

Commission on Appraisal meeting
April 20 – 23, 2006, in Columbus, OH

FRIDAY MORNING

Discussion of minutes. Mark will revise the minutes and submit for approval soon.

Decision-making procedure

We approved the decision-making procedure, as drafted at the last meeting, for inclusion into the Handbook.

Review of the rest of the agenda

Nothing to add.

Other (little) study topics—putting them to bed

Living Our Faith: A full study of Living Our Faith in addition to the review of Article II is too much. However, it is part of our understanding of the topic, and will be a thread in looking at the Principles.

We will go through the material we have come up with so far about Living Our Faith, and pull out some suggestions for what to send to Tom Chulak's group.

International congregations: Tabled until October.

Self-study of the Commission: Tabled more or less indefinitely, to be taken up by some future incarnation of the Commission. General feeling that the ideas are great, but now is not the time to act on them.

Study conversation

Article I: We don't want to do it. Someone will send a response to Gini Courter et al. about this.

Correspondence

We discussed how to respond to correspondence we receive on this topic.

We have decided: we will draft a sincere form letter, which will be approved later this meeting.

All unsolicited correspondence will receive this letter in reply, and will be forwarded to the entire Commission. If there is a need for further communication, we will initiate it. We will not get into ongoing conversations with people who write to us.

Process observation

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Appreciative Inquiry

Barabara led us in an exercise about Appreciative Inquiry.

Hearing planning

We planned the hearing. We're going to use a process that's modelled on AI.

Process observation

SATURDAY MORNING

Further hearing planning

Discussion of how to welcome Jacqui and bring her up to speed

Introduction to Dr. Korie Edwards—why we're talking with her

There aren't many academic experts in the field of congregational multi-racial, multi-ethnic community building, and she is one of them. She and two colleagues (Brad Christenson and Michael O. Emerson) did several years of field research and wrote *Against All Odds*—6 case studies (congregations, campus ministry, college), and how in each setting religious leaders went about trying to build multi-racial/ethnic community, how successful they were, and the challenges. The case studies are all of evangelical churches, of similar flavour. The interesting thing is that these churches with different theology were facing exactly the same issues as UUs do. Dr. Edwards will be on a panel at GA that Bill Sinkford is running, called Building Multi-racial, Multi-ethnic Beloved Community, to promote building these communities in ways which are not superficial, not just numerical, but about how we are reaching out and being hospitable.

Conversation with Dr. Korie Edwards

Process observations

[LUNCH]

HEARING

Briefly saying hi to Jacqui

We went around the table and introduced ourselves, who we are, what our function is on the Commission, etc.

October meeting

We're still confused, and there may be problems with the schedule. After some discussion, we agree that we are definitely meeting Oct 19–22 in Washington, DC.

Future meeting dates:

Jan 18–21 '07

Apr 19–22 '07

Oct 18–21 '07

Some discussion about location.

Hearing debriefing

Study discussion

Process observation

DINNER

More study discussion

GA planning

We need a written report, to be printed in the annual reports book, and an oral report to plenary. For the written report, we will do something similar to and based on our joint announcement. For plenary report, talk about our work on process and say “come to our hearing,” using similar content to what we used at this OMD hearing.

General plan to run GA hearing more or less like OMD hearing. General consensus to do this.

SUNDAY MORNING

We discussed logistics of leaving the meeting.

Date of January meeting

We are leaning towards having the January meeting in San Diego. Tom will begin looking into logistics.

Financial report

We considered the financial report, including an interim report ("quarterly financial analysis"). As of the end of Dec '05, we have spent 40% of our budget. Some of this may be from GA last year? We seem to be in good shape.

Form letter for response to correspondence

We approved the sincere form letter with minor changes. When we received unsolicited correspondence, we will reply with this letter, and the correspondence will be forwarded to all members of the Commission.

Discussion of (printed) Annual Report for GA

We discussed again the issue of re-printing the EOTD report, which has been completely sold out. We will continue to look into this to see if it can be re-printed.

GA Planning

Reiterate that we plan to run the GA hearing like the OMD hearing, except for minor adjustments to wording, etc.

Discussion of names, titles, and how to introduce people.

Other business

Task lists and writing assignments

Process observation

Check-out.