

Openness Implementation Committee Meeting Notes – February 27, 2008

The Openness Implementation Committee met via conference call. Evelyn Spurgin, Carol Agate, Sam Trumbore and John Blevins participated. We first talked about the continued work we should do to change the culture of openness and transparency. We agreed that we would each take 2 – 3 committees and talk with the chair about openness issues. We will use the questionnaire that Carol created last year and that John posted on Google docs (thanks John for introducing us to this new tool!). Carol has already been working closely with Congregations Come First and they have responded by posting more information. She will also work with the Fifth Principle Task Force. Sam has had some good conversations with a few committees as part of his educational process on our work and has agreed to work with Journey Toward Wholeness, Social Witness and the Panel on Theological Education. Evelyn will work with the Commission on Appraisal and the Planning Committee.

John discussed with us at length about Board's continued work on governance and the possible move toward policy governance. He said one of the things they are focusing on now is the role of committees if the Board were to move to policy governance. The Governance Working Group will be taking the lead on examining this issue. We talked about what our role might be if the committee structure changes and how openness and transparency would be protected. John will put the issue of openness on the working group's agenda for the next Board meeting and suggested the possibility of a joint conference call with the working group and our committee in the future. The working group will be having a workshop at GA. We agreed it would be important for us to attend if possible.

We agreed to have a meeting after the April Board meeting and possibly a second one before GA to finalize plans for our time together at GA.

Evelyn Spurgin, Chair