

MFSA Chapter Meeting Minutes 8/10/06

Mingle & Gather 6:30-7:00pm

Opening Prayer & Song 7:00pm

Study Session 7:05-8:00pm

- Watched the documentary ***A Blinding Flash of the Obvious*** which shares the compelling story of the 2004 Cincinnati, OH campaign; Citizens to Restore Fairness. This was the local campaign which helped repeal Cincinnati's 11-year old anti-gay law that explicitly discriminated against gay, lesbian and bisexual citizens.
- The film is part of People For the American Way Foundation's Focus on Fairness toolkit outlining how the Cincinnati campaign might serve as a model for other progressive victories.
- Discussed highlights from documentary which can be applied to activities MFSA is interested in supporting.
 - National organization, local impact
 - Organizational Management
 - Triangulation – support from religious, civic and business communities.
 - Need strong support from leadership
 - Personal conversations make issue more realistic to voters.

ETC presentation 8:00-8:10pm

- Bob Parsons from ETC shared their planned activities to work towards full inclusiveness in the Methodist church. Requested help from MFSA.
- ETC will have a workshop at First UMC Sept 29-30th.
 - Friday, Sept 29th 7pm – 9:15pm
 - Saturday, Sept 30th 8:30am – 5:45pm
- Discussed having conversations with the Board of Church and Society members prior to their next meeting (Oct?).
 - Conference website should contain a list of names.

Working Sessions: 8:10-8:20pm

Announcements: 8:20 – 8:30pm

- Concern expressed that our MFSA core base of people is stretched too thin supporting 5 areas of focus. Would like to re-structure sub-groups.
- Also noted we shouldn't be a 1 topic organization
- GLBT group will support ETC as the "troops". Open to having conversations with the Church and Society board members – need a "training" and scripts developed prior. Members are interested in attending the
- Next Meeting is Sept 14th at St. John's with guest speaker Bob Jensen. He will discuss his membership controversy at St. Andrews and his

perspective on what it means to be a Christian. He recently tried to join St. Andrews Presbyterian even though he was not willing to confirm his belief in God.

- Brainstormed potential future programs:
 - Nobility Movie viewing a weekend afternoon at a church
 - Cabinet member or new District Superintendent as a speaker
 - Speakers on the Death Penalty
 - Jay Brim (Conference Lay Leader) on Politics in the church or “Just Peace” – how the church deals with conflict.
 - Provide handouts of the UMC structure (i.e. district – conference, etc) In the Conference Journal?