

MFSA Chapter Meeting Minutes 1/12/06

Mingle & Gather 6:30-7:00pm

Opening Prayer & Song 7:00pm

Study Session 7:05-7:45pm

- Dr. George Ricker (University UMC) spoke from his most recent book, *A New Look At The Old Commandments*.
- Dr. Ricker's other books: *The Faith Once Grown*, *What You Don't Have to Believe to be a Christian*.
- Commandment is a mistranslation of the Hebrew word. A better translation is "statement of Word", or "covenant of Word".
- The New English Bible makes the best attempt of a better translation. Exodus 34:38 says the "ten words" and the footnote says "ten commandments", whereas most other versions are reversed.
- Code of Hemmey Rabbi? Has ethical statements, i.e. an "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth", at the time was to prevent unending revenge. Hemmey Rabbi is associated with Babylon.
- The ten Commandments are verses, but different Christian sectors list them in different numerical orders.
- The Hebrew 1st Commandment is "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of slavery" ...not a commandment as we know it, but is a statement to remind the Hebrews to *remember* who they are and where they came from.
- They are guidelines on the pressure points of life.
- #1. We tend to make gods out of war, youth, etc. (modern version of the Greek gods).
- #4. The Rhythm of Life: Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
 - Exodus version – Takes the Genesis story literally. "God rested on the 7th day, so should you."
 - Deuteronomy – remember you were a slave in Egypt you worked 7 days a week with no time off, do not let that happen again. The rhythm of life requires a day of rest & refreshment.
 - Babylonians said "we need a day of the quieting of the heart".
- #5 Honor your Father and Mother
 - Bridge commandment between your relationship with God and relationship with others.
- You shall not kill
 - In Hebrew stated you shall not murder, what they meant was you should not kill other Hebrews.

Breakout Sessions 7:45-8:20pm

- Non-violence
 - Sunday, March 18th is the 3rd anniversary of the Iraq war.
 - Would like to make a plan to do something, maybe hand out fliers.

- There is a Peace Center in Austin, may want to connect with them.
- State-wide Issues
 - Develop an “elevator card” of talking points and facts regarding education to pass out to MFSA and other people. This will provide information for people to speak intelligently with our legislature reps.
 - Jan 21-22nd
 - Seminar on School Funding
 - Seminar on Taxation – what are the facts and how can we go to our legislatures.
 - Gaye will email this info to the group.
- LGBT
 - Jan 22nd at 1st United Methodist Church at 6pm – meeting of the reconciling ministries network. (i.e. Sunday school classes which have declared they are reconciling).
 - Goals looking towards annual conference in June 2006 & General Conf in 2008.
 - Want to join with ETC (expand the circle) to work with them and have a presence at the conference.
 - Provide information to the delegates at other churches
 - May 22nd Capital City Men’s Chorus and Human Rights Campaign will have a concert together at 1st UMC.
 - Plan to have a presence at the Pride Festival and Pride Parade & have a table to represent multiple churches.
- Responding to the Right
 - Focusing on activities to lead up to Annual & General Conference.
 - Educate how the policies are developed and the structure at conference so we can then create a strategy of how to address the issues expected to come up.
 - Need volunteers to dedicate time to attend General conference.
 - Suggest a presentation at an MFSA meeting of how conference works. “Conference Primer”
- Dismantling Racism
 - Bob brought an article about issues from New Orleans, many people were illiterate and uneducated.
 - The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond – a group in NOLA that has been addressing issues with racism.
 - Texas Interfaith Disaster Response
 - MLK Day on Monday – Peace walk from 21st & Speedway to the Capital.

Announcements 8:20-8:25pm

- Rowland will look into purchasing a banner.
- John Yeaman will reserve a table for MFSA at Annual Conf this year.

- Topics for other meetings: Conference Primer, Taxation information, Creating a Culture of Peace.
- Dr. Ricker is willing to come and speak to us again.
- Next Meeting is February 9th at Grace.
- Please advertise for next meeting.
- John – include the 5 sub-groups in the meeting announcement email.
- Adam created our website: www.swtmfisa.org
- Email announcements to: mail@swtmfisa.org

Wrap-up and Closing Song 8:25-8:30pm