

MFSA SWT Chapter Meeting
10/13/05 – Grace United Methodist Church

1. Mingle & Gather
2. Opening Prayer & Song
 - a. Linda Kessie led the group in prayer
 - b. Stephen led the group in song
3. Sub-Group Reports
 - a. Non-Violence
 - i. Lib brought brochures for an overnight workshop called “Creating a Culture of Peace” Dec 2nd & 3rd at Asbury Methodist (38 ½ St. & I35).
 - b. LGBT
 - i. Brought an 8min video from No Nonsense in November to encourage people to vote AGAINST amendment #2.
 - ii. Attended a capital vigil at the state capital.
 - iii. One of the top 3 reasons people vote is b/c a friend asked them to, please encourage others to vote.
 - iv. AIDS walk is Sunday, October 16th. Walk starts at 2pm in front of the capital, street fair with booths starts at noon.
 - v. Trinity is having a retreat called “The Bible and the H-word” next weekend (Oct 21-22) by Michael White, UT professor.
 - c. Responding to the Conservative Right
 - i. Rowland brought a draft of websites including UMC sites, progressive sites, and other news links of what the right is saying. This was compiled by Fred.
 - ii. National MFSA sent an email regarding the Good News Movement and Confessing Movement.
 - iii. Good to pay attention to what MFSA is doing to counter the conservative right.
 - iv. Richard Bates shared his experience at the reconciling movement at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. This activity was protested by the KKK.
 - v. Baptism – the Right is trying to move from Infant baptism to adult age baptism, so they can deny gays and lesbians from receiving baptism. This is the extent they are moving towards, we should keep infant baptism as it is part of our heritage.
 - d. Each Chapter meeting we will review updates from the working teams.
 - i. Question if action plans within the sub-groups need approval. Group advised that the working team leads send plans to the steering group for input. The Steering committee can help distribute to the larger group if they need assistance.

- ii. Summary: Working teams will develop the action plans, the action plans will be distributed to the larger group in case others want to support in execution of the actions.
 - iii. If members have a suggestion for activities, can email directly to the Team Leaders and the Communication chair.
 - iv. How are we communicating these meetings in Austin?
 - 1. Email notices were sent to all participating churches including some others where we have not received any response. (St. Johns, University, Manchaca, Trinity, Grace)
 - 2. Suggested that we reach out to other Methodist Churches, including those of other races.
 - 3. Anyone know of specific contact names at 1st Church?
 - 4. Mail a flyer to Austin church ministers? Janice and Rowland can send out flyers in the mail to churches.
- 4. Study Session
 - a. Meeting attendees watched an 8min video from No Nonsense in November.
 - b. Susan taught on Amendment #2 and information from the Austin Alliance for Social Justice as well as information from No Nonsense in November.
 - c. Reviewed the Resolution adopted by the Central Texas Chapter of MFSA. This will likely be provided to the faith-based portion of the No Nonsense in November campaign.
 - d. The Southwest Texas MFSA Chapter in-formation unanimously passed a resolution opposing Amendment No2.
 - e. Suggested that we ask our churches to include in next newsletter the Southwest Texas MFSA Chapter in-formation resolution.
 - f. Steering Committee will also try to distribute to other churches not represented.
 - g. John Yeaman advised there is an excellent speech from the Houston Representative S. Thompson that can be downloaded.
 - h. Susan brought 25 copies of *Walking Humbly, Doing Justice* for the next study session. This book can be purchased for \$8.
- 5. Wrap up & Closing Song
- 6. Other
 - a. Next meeting is Thursday, November 10th at 6:30pm at St. John's Methodist Church.
 - b. Next meeting will have mingling and food from 6:30 – 7pm, with meeting starting at 7pm. People are welcome to bring their dinner, light snacks will be provided.
- 7. Working group Team Lead and Communication Chair contact information:
 - a. Nonviolence / Anti-war / Peace
 - i. Team Leader : Janice Curry - jcurry@austinisd.org
 - ii. Communications Chair: Pat Stewart - pat.stewart@lcra.org

- b. Dismantling Racism
 - i. Team Leader : Jim Newman –
Jim.Newman@hhsc.state.tx.us 458-3714
 - ii. Communications Chair: Sylvia Newman -
sylvia.newman@dars.state.tx.us
 - c. Monitoring the Conservative Renewal Movement in the UMC & Theological Integrity
 - i. Team Leader : John Anderson - Janderson@mbfc.com
 - ii. Communications Chair: Rowland Curry -
rcurry@austin.rr.com
 - d. LGBT Issues
 - i. Team Leader : Earley Ullrich - swdolphins@hotmail.com
 - ii. Communications Chair: Vanessa De La Rosa -
verad411@yahoo.com
 - e. State-wide Issues
 - i. Team Leader : Susan Sprague (temporary) -
susan@tumc.org
 - ii. Communications Chair: Eric Thronson -
ethrons1@hotmail.com
8. Action Items
- a. John Yeaman – Please forward the National MFSA newsletter to the Austin MFSA Chapter email list.
 - b. Steering Committee – Include a section at the beginning of each Chapter meeting to orient new attendees to the group and get involved with a working group.
 - c. Tara – Add working group team and communication lead emails in the minutes.
 - d. Glen – Get a list of the area Methodist pastors to email the meeting announcements.