

Peace and Social Action Committee Minutes of May 25, 2008

Present: Martha Dickinson, chair, Bill Conway.

Visitors: Kay Wilkins and Anna Osanna from the Leadership Development Committee and Jon Thomas.

The meeting convened around 9:30 AM. Martha read the Mission Statement of the committee and gave a brief history of the work of PASA in the last year. PASA has a web page through uellsworth.org. Click on Committees and then scroll down and click on the Peace and Social Action Committee to see our Mission Statement and brief summary of activities. Martha reported on the work of the Truth in Recruiting and Alternatives Project in local high schools and on the Maine Refugee Assistance Committee. Bill and Martha have volunteered as drivers.

PASA has very few members and needs members of the congregation to join PASA in order that PASA can be effective. We hope members can meet to set priorities for a few ongoing projects. In addition, we intend to support or endorse any peace and social action work that congregational members are involved in. Until we have more members on PASA, we lack the ability to take on new ongoing projects. (Our ongoing projects of the community outreach are Truth in Recruiting, Maine Refugee Assistance, and the Peace Vigils and Witnesses.)

Jon Thomas recommended study of the writings of Walter Wink, a theologian at Auburn Theological Seminary, and author of "The Powers That Be" and "Engaging Powers" which discusses nonviolence from a Christian perspective. After discussion, we recommended he see about having an Adult RE program. Diana Cate is now chair of that committee.

On June 29, Hugh Curran will present pictures and talk about his recent Celtic Pilgrimage to Ireland. Hugh leads the Peace Studies Program at the University of Maine. We agreed to sponsor his talk on June 29, 7 pm, at UUCE. Martha is publicizing and making arrangements. Information is available in the June newsletter and on-line.

Kay told us about her work as Hancock County captain in charge of organizing an effort to staff informational tables at the polls on June 10, primary day. The information will be in defense of gay and lesbian rights and civil rights teams in the high schools. They will counter false information given out in the effort to gather signatures on a referendum in opposition of civil rights teams in the high schools, and in to repeal civil rights for gays and lesbians. We agreed to support and co-sponsor Kay's work.

Kay urged us to be a part of the good works efforts in the community such as the recent CROP walk. And to have a program in which members of the congregation could talk about their ongoing good works projects. We remain happy to support such work, but again, we need a few more members to do anything more than endorse them. We agreed to plan a forum in the fall on some of the good works done currently by congregational members.

Bill Conway will continue to provide his DVDs and videos for loan during coffee hour on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Respectfully, Martha Dickinson