

Same-Sex Union Issue Time Line

December, 2003: Original presentation to Church Council to open a dialogue on the issue of honoring or celebrating same-sex unions.

January, 2004: First meeting of the SSU study group to "Open a Dialogue" on the issue. Study group develops FAQ which is distributed in *The Foundry Forge*.

April, 2004: Study group reports to Council; discussions ensue as to next steps.

July, 2004: An open forum is held after Sunday services, leading to detailed discussion of next steps. Jean Peters becomes head of informal study group discussing forward plan.

August, 2004 to April, 2005: Study group organizes, develops mission statement, work plan and time line, and discusses and decides how to frame the issue for congregational discussion.

April, 2005: Study group begins small group discussions which include a written survey of participants.

June, 2005: Study group members make a presentation to the Church Council on their findings to date.

July, 2005: Church Council approves the informal study group as a formal Issues Working Group and requests a formal report of findings and recommendations.

July to November, 2005: Issues Working Group conducts research on case histories and policies of other United Methodist Churches.

November, 2005: Adult Education schedules workshop open to all members of congregation and conducted by members of the IWG to discuss the issue and complete the survey.

November, 2005 to July, 2006: SSUIWG reviews and analyzes survey results, conducts additional research and prepared draft report.

July, 2006: SSU IWG presents draft report to OCC.

November, 2006: Dean Snyder addresses the issue in his State of the Church sermon.

January, 2007: The Church Council discusses the issue in anticipation of receiving the final report of the SSUIWG.

February, 2007: The Issues Working Group presents its final report to the Senior Pastor and the Operations Coordinating Committee. The Church Council discusses the report's recommendations and possible courses of action in detail.

April, 2007: The GLBT group discusses the issue of same-sex unions at their annual retreat.

April, 2007: The Senior Pastor and key leaders conduct a discussion regarding the Book of Discipline.

Copies of the final report of the Same-Sex Union Issue Working Group are available in the Library or from the church office.