

Templeton Committee Meeting
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 13, 2016

Abington, PA

Present: Nancy Ischinger, James Cushing, Brewster Hastings, and Michael Tavella

Prayer

Update

The Committee reviewed the specific assignments for the production of the manual, entitled *Honoring Christ in Defense of the Faith*.

Michael Tavella "Introduction"

"A Survey of Biblical and Post-Biblical Sources"

Earl Whipple "Christ and Culture"

John Minges

Jim Cushing

Earl Whipple "A Description of the American Cultural Environment"

John Minges

Jim Cushing

Jonathan Riches "The Challenges of the Times for Christian Witness"

Michael Tavella “Appropriate Conduct for a Christian in Making a Defense”

Michael Tavella “Opportunities for Witness”

John Minges “The Christian Community”

Nancy Ischinger “Nurturing Disciples in Community”

Jonathan Riches “Worship and Prayer Resources”

Jonathan Riches Bibliography

Michael Tavella

Jonathan Riches Media Resources

Brewster Hastings will be involved in the editing process.

Rough drafts of these chapters should be ready by the time of our fall meeting.

Writers may create new chapters and retitle the titles listed above. At the meeting, a suggestion was made that we include a chapter on the authenticity of the Scriptures.

Name of the Committee

The Committee discussed the need for a more descriptive name for the Committee. We are open to suggestions.

Webpage

A webpage is being established for the project at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church website www.holytrinity.net. It was suggested that we include a blog. A logo representing the project was approved. It is the ship of the Church traveling through rough waters. The chi/rho and alpha and omega are superimposed on the sail of a ship found on the gravestone of Firmia Victora.

Readership/Audience

The manual is intended for Christians, both clergy and laity. It is intended to help Christians in dialogue with atheists and the “nones” or “spirituals” who are not members of the Church. The project had been directed to atheists only, but the Committee felt that we needed to widen the audience. Though prominent in modern American culture, atheists remain a rare breed. The manual will be designed to give counsel to those engaged in one to one witness and to those organizing events of public dialogue.

Timeline

Rough drafts of chapters are to be completed by the fall meeting.

Next Meeting

We did not establish **the date for the fall meeting**. An announcement will be made later.

Questions and Ideas

Members are encouraged to communicate questions and ideas through the group list.

We ended with the **Lord's Prayer**.

Michael Tavella