

Covenant Network of Presbyterians Picnic  
July 8, 2006

Thanks to all who came and made the Covenant Network of Presbyterians Picnic happen. I would like to give special thanks to Rob and Susie Sawin-Johnson who hosted the event. It seemed to be an energizing and thoughtful “coming out party” for First Presbyterian Columbus’ association with the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.

I estimate that around 22 adults and six children were in attendance. Lots of people were out of town or had prior commitments. Between 14-16 people (counting spouses/partners) that I know of would have liked to be there. I think that is good initial support.

Ideas/Questions from the discussion that followed the 1<sup>st</sup> segment of the Turning Points video:

- What exactly are we trying to accomplish tonight?
- Are we trying to become a More Light Church?
- What is the difference between More Light Presbyterians and Covenant Network of Presbyterians?
- Do we want to be more welcoming?
- Don’t we need to be more welcoming to lots of folks not just GLBT folks?
- How could we become more welcoming?
- What does the UU church have that we don’t (i.e. how are they more welcoming?)?
- How can we apply the welcoming nature of the growing conservative churches?
- Should we evangelize?
- The work this church did in the 60s and 70s attracted people to the church and was a form of evangelism.
- The worship service may not be perceived as welcoming.
- We need to pray for GLBT folks and hear references to GLBT folks from the pulpit more often.
- We need more discussions like this one to bring people to the church.

Thoughts that arose after the discussion:

- Perhaps we should reach out and have a presence with the Gay/Straight Alliance in Columbus.
- Maybe we could do some role play/practice with each other regarding how we talk about these issues in a non-threatening way to others in the church and outside the church.