

Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region

Affirming Webinar

September 17th, 2020

Introduction

- Affirm Ministry Committee was established by the executive.
- Affirm United asked that FSLDW go through the education process to become Affirming in it's new identity.
- This report is to share process and ask for support. No motion will be presented.
- A motion to become Affirming will be presented at the 2021 AGM when we meet in person.
- Introduce the committee: Tony Burnett, Randy Breckenridge, Jane Johnson, Pix Butt, Faith March-MacCuish, Elizabeth Stevenson (Chair)

Action Plan

Seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world FSLDW is committed to enacting this vision for Affirming Ministry within the Region.

Therefore, in fulfillment of this vision, FSLDW Region will:

1. Incorporate this vision and plan of action into the mandate of a standing Region Committee for Affirming Ministry in order to support and provide resources to the congregations of FSLDW Region in an ongoing process of being an Affirming ministry within The United Church of Canada.

2. Expect FSLDW Region to establish an Equity Group/Team. FSLDW Affirming Ministry Committee will recommend terms of reference for an Equity Group/Team.

Always ask yourself:

Who writes the stories?

Who benefits from the stories?

Who is missing from the stories?

3. Expect FSLDW administrative and programming staff to fashion their ministry, at all time and in all places, in keeping with this vision.

4. Expect the FSLDW standing and ad hoc committees, units, and task groups to regularly assess their agenda and their ministry to see that they are in keeping with this vision.

- Affirm Task Group
- Archives and Records
- Faith and Education Formation
- Financial and Mission Services
- Incorporated Ministry
- Justice, Mission and Outreach
- Nominations
 - Pastoral Relations
- Property
- Regional Planning
- Tri Regional Staff Cmte

5. Promote and identify the Region's Affirming Ministry status in official FSLDW signage, facilities, ways of being welcoming, social media, documentation, etc.

Example: update the Affirming banner to FSLDW

6. Direct the Candidacy Board for the Atlantic Region to inform Inquirers, Candidates and Applicants for ministry within the Region that we are an Affirming Region as they actively pursue their call to ministry.

7. Actively advocate for justice in issues of inclusive language, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity in particular, as well as life experience, different abilities, ethnicity, skin colour, culture, age, geographic location, economic circumstance, mental and physical health and those we have yet to discern, both within the church and ministries of our Region and in the wider community.

8. Encourage and support ministers of diversity applying to serve in the Region... on the basis of sexual orientation, age, gender and gender identity, skin colour, ethnicity or different physical and mental ability.

9. Work toward becoming a Region in which Equal Marriage is available in all Communities of Faith. To that end, the Affirming Ministry Standing Committee will work with Communities of Faith in their conversations around fully Equal Marriage Policy.

Education Plan

We believe that sharing our stories, combined with active listening is one of the best ways to seek understanding of what it means to live into becoming an Affirming Ministry. To that end, we give thanks for Elliot Williams and Yvette Swan as they share a wee bit of what living and working is like here in FSLDW.

Story Telling: Why is Affirming Important?

Elliot Williams - Trans Person (recorded video)

Rev. Yvette Swan - Racism (will speak live)

A reminder of our vision

“That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region embody an *active* and faithful reflection of Jesus’ ministry in the world; Affirming and respecting people of all

sexual orientations, genders and gender identities,
different abilities, ethnicity, skin colour,
culture, age, geographic location,
economic circumstance, mental and physical health
in all aspects of its life and work.”

You will be invited to attend Zoom webinars - **for information and for discussion** about the various themes in our goal.

There is so much for us all to learn!

Meet people who have experiences advocating for... or needing advocates.... In these various areas of difference in our communities.

We hope over the weeks to build a safe place to ask ALL the questions.... And ponder together with others ... on how we can be the church in the most inclusive and affirming ways possible.

We hope you will **join us!!**

Watch the weekly Regional announcements for the details.

Two Rivers Pastoral Charge Celebration Video 2017.
(prerecorded)

Amen.