

PROPOSALS

First Dawn Eastern Edge

Annual Regional Meeting Fall 2020

What is a proposal?

- a request for a council of the UCC to take action
- one way any UCC member may raise an issue that is important to them
- the council that is being asked to take action is called the “Council of Action”

What should a proposal give?

- background to understand why the issue is important and coming as a request for action
- a framing of the question
- the wished-for response stated
- help to aid the “Council of Action” in its discernment

How might the Council of Action respond?

- Take the action requested in the proposal
- Take the action requested but with some changes
- Take different action on the same subject matter as the proposal
- Refer the proposal
- Receive the proposal but take no further action
- Take some other action that the Council of Action deems appropriate

Proposal
Coming to
this
Meeting

**Establishing an Affirm
Standing Committee for FDEE**

Origin: First Dawn Eastern Edge
Regional Council Executive

What is the issue?

We believe God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is calling us to:

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.

(Used with Permission Fundy St. Lawrence Regional Council Affirm Document)

Why is this issue important?

As the United Church of Canada we say we believe:

- that all human beings are made in the image of God, that Jesus calls us away from the center in order to be in solidarity with those on the margins, and that Jesus' ministry through us is to reconcile and heal.
- the sin of racism is present in our society.
- God calls us to protect the vulnerable and work that all might have abundant life

- The UCC already has many Affirming Ministries, committed to issues of sexuality and gender but also to far reaching justice issues.

How might
we
respond?

- FDEE Regional Council Executive believes it is not enough to say we believe all these things.

We must live what we say we believe.

How might we respond?

- establish an Affirm Standing Committee with the goal of working towards becoming an affirming region.
- the standing committee will engage the region in an educational process in which we learn about what it means to be an affirming region.
- The proposal to becoming an Affirming Region will not come before the region until after we have engaged in the educational process.

What would it mean beyond the Region?

- The Region's decision to enter into the affirming process does not automatically mean Communities of Faith are in the affirming process.
- While the Regional Executive would encourage communities of faith to enter their own educational process towards becoming an affirming community of faith, if the Region becomes an Affirming Region, it does not automatically give Communities of Faith that status.
- Note: For more information go to the Affirm United Website: <http://affirmunited.ause.ca/>

What is
being
asked of
us, the
Region?

At the online meeting, vote on the following motion:

The FDEE Region empowers the Regional Council Executive to establish an Affirm Standing Committee, which will engage the Region in an educational process, at the end of which, a proposal to become an affirming region will come.