

Proposal 2

Proposal Name: That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters become an Affirming Ministry

Origin: FSLDW Affirm Ministry Committee

1. What is the issue?

We believe the Region is called to continue the story of Jesus by embodying the Spirit of Christ's presence in the world.

We believe we are called to continue that story by living into the Vision adopted at the 2020 FSLDW AGM 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 in particular, different abilities, ethnicity, skin colour, culture, age, geographic location, economic circumstance and mental and physical health in all aspects of its life and work.

We believe that FSLDW is committed to enacting this vision for Affirming Ministries within the Region.

We believe we are called to respond to the challenge from Affirm United in becoming an Affirming Ministry in our new identity as Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters.

As an Affirming Ministry, and to continue the growth of Affirming ministries in the Region, the Affirm Ministry Committee Chair, (or representative) would be a member of the Regional Executive. It will be important to have that voice and listening ear at the Executive level.

2. Why is this issue important?

Key underlying theological, ecclesiological, missional, or justice issues?

In keeping with the Core Values, Mission and Vision Statements of the Region and recognizing the wide diversity of peoples within its bounds, FSLDW Region seeks to create a safe and welcoming space for all people.

History/background of this issue?

Even though the former Maritime Conference was recognized as an Affirming Ministry, as a new Region FSLDW has different people involved offering different dynamics. Affirm United asked that FSLDW go through the education process to become Affirming in it's new identity.

The 2020 FSLDW AGM made a commitment to engage an educational program to raise awareness of what it means to be Affirming and to receive a vote to become Affirming at the 2021 AGM.

Principles informing this issue?

FSLDW understands Affirming to mean "gifts shared for the good of all, resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize... human dignity defended..." (A Song of Faith UCC) , as seem in the teachings and actions of Jesus of Nazareth. (a)

Therefore, FSLDW will celebrate the blessings of and support one another in the challenges of our diverse life experiences, including yet not limited to sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, life experience, different abilities, ethnicity, skin colour, generational culture, age, geographic location, economic circumstance, and other areas we have yet to discern. That said, we note that this work was born out of a particular concern for discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity within the church.

FSLDW will equally welcome all people of God and offer them the complete range of opportunities to fully be part of and participate in the life and work of the church, continually seeking to identify and dismantle barriers that hinder the participation and inclusion of marginalized groups and individuals. Listening actively and attentively, we will strive to be public, intentional, and explicit as we live into understanding one another, treating those with whom we disagree with love and respect.

(a) Some scripture references to “teachings”: Matthew 22:34-40; Mathew 25: 31-46, Luke 10: 25-37; Luke 15:11-32; Mark 5:21-23; Mark 10: 13-16; Luke 19: 1-10; John 4: 1-26.

Action Requested:

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region become an Affirming Ministry and a member of Affirm United for an annual membership fee.