

Where to Start in Becoming an Affirming Ministry?

March 10, 2022

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council

Affirm Committee

Welcoming –

Why is this important?

Where are you?

What is your comfort zone?

Ten Steps to Becoming Affirming

1. Create an Affirming Committee

2. Make contact with Affirm United (AU)

3. Create an Inclusivity Statement

Affirm United expects that you will look at a variety of areas that may be barriers to those coming to your community

4. Create an Equal Marriage Policy

Steps to Becoming Affirming continued...

5. Invite someone from another Affirming Ministry to speak to your group.

Steps to Becoming Affirming continued...

6. Develop an Education Plan.

7. Keep the community of faith/governing body up to date on process.

8. Create an Action Plan.

Steps to Becoming Affirming continued...

9. Seek Community of Faith approval.

10. Have a public celebration.

Break Out Rooms

Question:

Where will you start?

What next? Who to contact?

Resources:

Affirm Committee members contact info:

Pix Butt, PEI, pixonsand@gmail.com

Tony Burnett, Fredericton NB area, anthonyburnett178@yahoo.ca

Jane Johnson, Fredericton NB area, revjane81@gmail.com

Don Scott, PEI, donscott39@eastlink.ca

Elizabeth Stevenson, Saint John, NB area, elizstevenson@gmail.com

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, FMacCuish@united-church.ca

Affirm United link: affirmunited.ause.ca

Open Hearts... https://affirmunited.ause.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/Open-Hearts-AUSE_Final_May192020.pdf

QUEER TERMS from [outsaskatoon.ca](https://www.outsaskatoon.ca)

<https://www.outsaskatoon.ca/resource-library/queer-terms/>

Questionnaire:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5gbv5fm8u98wq8g/Revised%20OTF%20Breaking%20Barriers%20Affirming%20Ministries%20Kit.pdf?dl=0>

Examples of Inclusivity Policies, Education Plans and Action Plans:

Harmony United Church

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/chcbqs8sgkhosjubh5wzz/Affirming-Update-on-Harmony-United-Church-April-2021.docx?dl=0&rlkey=8nrbsvjdye0whb8nqiiz3vf0z>

Quispamsis United Church

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/rmtj9s0tk55h674rseon7/Quispamsis-United-Church-Affirming-Committee.docx?dl=0&rlkey=hicm721svafustycfj91x2kay>

Example of Equal Marriage policy:

Trinity Clifton United Church

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hjtajtspunm8lgecfsk87/Trinity-Clifton-Marriage-policy.docx?dl=0&rlkey=qy5tz84q2j7cf9i1yfrnhp8gc>

Closing