

## **AFFIRM COMMITTEE**

The Affirm Committee has been active throughout the year meeting by Zoom and through numerous emails.

The Committee's prime focus was coordinating Regional educational webinars to help us live into what it means to be an Affirming Ministry.

This effort included five public Zoom webinars with guest resource people sharing their experience and wisdom.

1. October, 2022 *Neurodiversity* presented by Shelley Pick
2. November, 2022 *Economic Justice* presented by Shepherd Munikwa.
3. January, 2023 *Where to Start in Becoming Affirming* presented by Kim Curlett
4. February, 2023 *Speaking Inclusively* presented by Debbie Aitken and Heather MacDougall.
5. March, 2023 *Conversion Therapies. How to recognize them and how to help people in recovery* presented by Sue King.

In case you missed them, recordings of most of these webinars are posted on the Region website. Thank you to these amazing presenters who were willing to share their wisdom. Thank you all who attended.

Other work included: a request to Executive to change the understanding of who can participate in executive meetings when the chair serves two roles; sent letters of congratulations to Affirming congregations celebrating their Affirming Anniversary; sent letters to Affirming Ministries with encouragement to celebrate PIE on March 14; requested approval from executive to update the Region website home page with the Affirm Logo; preparing a proposal for the 2023 Region Annual Meeting asking the GC to apologize to 2SLGBTQA1+ for harm done and preparing a workshop for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Affirm Committee members served as Equity Support Team at the 2022 FSLDW Region Annual Meeting as well as Executive meetings throughout the year. The Committee has reviewed this work with positive feedback from the executive. As a Region we are beginning to examine our individual bias.

The Committee continues to offer support for Communities of Faith in becoming Affirming.

Thank you to the staff of FSLDW for making all this happen. Jennifer T, Jennifer W and Shari K. thank you for your patience and persistence in all the work you do behind the scenes. Thank you to Executive Minister Rev. Faith Marsh-MacCuish for your wise and faithful leadership.

Thank you to everyone for your faithful commitment.

Committee members: Tony Burnett, Pix Butt, Jane Johnson, Don Scott, Ross Sherwood, Faith Marsh-MacCuish. This is a wonderful group of individuals creating a brave space where we do this important Spirit led work and enjoy each others company. Laughter is key!

Respectfully submitted Elizabeth Stevenson, Chair.