

## Report of Affirm Committee to FDEE Regional Council

**Committee:** The Affirm Advisory Committee for FDEE Regional Council is comprised of four main members: Cynthia Burt, James Martin-Carter DLM, Rev. Alice Moore and Rev. James Ravenscroft. In addition, Rev. Faith March-McCuish offers support to the committee's work. We are seeking new members, with preference given to members whose own identities will help ensure that the committee reflects FDEE's goals of inclusion as well as regional representation.

**Previous Work:** The Affirm Advisory Committee was created following the 2020 vote that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council would study the possibility of becoming an Affirming Ministry. After much hard work and dedication, a motion was brought to the last meeting of the Regional Council that we become an Affirming Ministry. This motion was passed with official recognition to come following a public celebration by the Regional Council.

**This Past Year's Work:** After some deserved time off, the committee focused its efforts on:

1. *Expanding membership.* To this end, we were pleased to welcome Rev. Paul Vardy of Glovertown Pastoral Charge, and Rev. Alice Moore from Central Labrador Pastoral Charge. Sadly, Rev. Paul had to step down. We are looking for additional members and invite people of all ages, identities, experiences and geographic locations to discern if they feel called to help us live into our inclusive vision.
2. *Holding the public celebration.* On May 3, FDEE Regional Council held a public worship service to celebrate our new status. In order to reflect the breadth of who we are as a region, this was a hybrid celebration with physical locations across the province linked via Zoom with others joining digitally also by Zoom or watching through YouTube. The locations were Carol United Church in Labrador City, Memorial United Church in Grand Falls-Windsor, and St. James United Church in St. John's, with a worship watch party hosted by Pasadena United Church. Memorial United Church was the main location with youth from Youth at Region helping to lead and receiving the official certificate from Affirm United-S'affirmer Ensemble. Rev. Grant Stuckless, former president of FDEE Regional Council, gave the sermon.

In addition to the above, the team received enquiries from pastoral charges considering becoming Affirming ministries. If your pastoral charge is thinking about becoming an Affirming Ministry, or you have questions or concerns, please feel free to email [fdeeaaffirm @ tutamail.com](mailto:fdeeaaffirm@tutamail.com).

**Looking Ahead:** With the public worship now celebrated, we begin the work of living into being an Affirming Region. Our prime focus will be on education, encouraging people in the region to learn more about being inclusive by viewing the recordings of webinars produced by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Affirm Committee. We also plan to make some of our own which we will share with the other regions. We will also continue to field requests for more information about becoming Affirming and are willing to support pastoral charges in the process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Convenor, FDEE Affirm Committee