

AFFIRM COMMITTEE

Committee members: Pix Butt (Chair-ending term), Ross Sherwood, Don Scott, Gneid Lackey, Sarah Clermont, Van Sanico, Linton Worrall (incoming Chair)

This year we welcomed Sarah Clermont and Van Sanico to our committee. Linton Worrall has agreed to join the committee and take on the Chair's position, as Pix ends her 2 terms at the end of our Annual Meeting this year. Thank you all! Our thanks to Don Scott for continuing to be our minute keeper. Ross Sherwood has been a valued and active member of our committee and is taking some time away presently for family needs.

This year the committee decided to re-offer webinars that have already been presented. To find the complete list, go to our FSLDW website under www.uceast.ca. From there find the Resources tab and webinars will be listed. We have covered many different topics.

This allowed the committee to spend our time reaching out to congregations that have not expressed an interest in becoming Affirming. It took some time to gather the contact information for each of these communities of faith. We sent a letter to the Chair of Board/Council, the minister, and the Admin person. This was to recognize that all congregations do not have full or part time ministers, or an office person for very many hours. We do hope our message of encouragement and offer to help reached everyone. The contact list is still being put together for NB churches. If you have any interest in a conversation, please contact one of our committee members.

Our only two new on line gatherings were "Getting Started" for those just beginning to ponder becoming Affirming; and our gathering for reps from our 10 already affirming congregations with reps from those congregations presently in the process. This was greatly appreciated last year. If you are an Affirming congregation, please consider sending a rep to this May 14th on line gathering. Contact Pix for information and the link.

One other responsibility is filling the Equity support roles for the Executive meetings and the Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who enters into these practices when we gather.

Our congratulations to all those who celebrated an Affirm Anniversary this year! Bravo for continuing your processes and activities of learning and stretching your welcome. Bravo as well to our congregations who are in the process of becoming officially affirming – 4 of you in PEI! Our committee members offer themselves to congregations for conversation about how you can join the process.

As outgoing Chair of this committee, I want to thank everyone I've worked with. A great group of committed and highly active people who see the value in stretching ourselves so that we can be more welcoming to all!

Pix Butt – out going Chair Linton Worall – incoming chair linton.worall@gmail.com