

Attendees: Rev. Don Sellsted, Scott Sweatman (excused at 7:19 pm to attend choir practice), Vicky Austin, Dale MacArthur, Jean Illingworth, Cheryl MacDonald, Carol Wooster, Cheryl Sellsted (recording secretary)

Absent: Chris Seymour, Heather Bishop

Meeting called to Order at 6:32 pm

Rev. Don welcomed everyone and provided a background speaking to his desire to pursue the Affirming Ministry process when he arrived at OVUC. He took time to observe the church family to see when the correct timing may be to bring up the idea to the Church Council. He did so and then was brought forward as a motion at the congregational meeting and voted on by the congregation. The vote was in favour of pursuing the Affirming Ministry process and a group of individuals volunteered to do the initial work and here we are!

Don provided two documents from the Affirm United website:

1. Requirements to declare your Ministry an Affirming Ministry
2. Frequently Asked Questions about Affirm United

A quick review of the first document was led by Rev. Don.

Rev. Don opened dialogue with group by posing the question “Why become an Affirming Ministry when we are already welcoming to everyone?”

The team discussed how welcoming we might be.

Some general discussion on these points ensued. It was generally agreed that the group just doesn't know.

We discussed the need to determine the group structure. Who will champion this group? Rev. Don will be the over-site person ensuring that nothing gets missed in the process, but would like someone from the group to step forward to lead in terms of calling meetings and following-through on objectives ensuring completion.

The handbook is also on-line. If you wish to read it on-line, the easiest way to access this is by going to: www.affirmunited.ca, click on Resources, Affirming Ministry Resources, then another window opens to the right where you will find both the Open Hearts Table of Contents and the Open Hearts PDF Document. **If you want a printed copy of Open Hearts, please advise Rev. Don and he will arrange for copies to be printed at the church.**

<i>ACTION ITEM No.1</i>
Homework: Read through “Open Hearts”, the Handbook. Jot down your questions to bring back to the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM No.2

Rev. Don to contact Homer Noble from Kingston/Torbrook Mines United Church to see if he would speak at an upcoming meeting about their experience going through the Affirming Ministry process.

For consideration, Rev. Don suggested a goal for the group is to have a calendar that shows what steps will be accomplished in September, October, November, etc. in order to keep the process flowing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday - May 13, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
OVUC Boardroom