

Attendees: Rev. Don Sellsted, Vicky Austin (co-chair), Dale MacArthur (co-chair), Cheryl Sellsted (recording secretary), Cheryl MacDonald, Chris Seymour, Jean Illingworth

Absent: Scott Sweatman, Heather Bishop, Carol Wooster

Dale called the meeting to Order at 7:00 pm

Chris led the Committee meeting in an opening prayer.

*Chris Seymour motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Cheryl Sellsted seconded. Carried.*

*Jean Illingworth motioned to approve the minutes from the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting as circulated. Cheryl MacDonald seconded. Carried.*

Vicky lit the Rainbow candle as it will be for each meeting moving forward.

The Committee members discussed parameters of the Committee's structure and agreed to the following:

- Safe space and what it means: confidential, free speech, open and honest discussion, listen with respect, welcome all by being kind and friendly, one person speaks at a time, no side-bar conversations when someone else is speaking, stay mindful of our purpose.
- What does respect look like?: Honour, accept and acknowledge uniqueness of each member
- The Golden Rule – “do unto others”
- Brave Spaces – speak with courage as it is okay to be ignorant, courage of convictions. We will seek to learn and understand from each other.
- Decision-making by consensus with Quorum being 50% plus one.

### Old Business

Dale thanked Chris for putting a Committee update in the bulletin.

Calendar – Vicky has volunteered to manage the project timeline. Thank-you Vicky!

Rev. Don presented on Biblical passages – understanding and implications. He took information directly from “Open Hearts” resource and took us through understanding the basic principles and the biases of different interpretations. Using this template is what a congregational workshop would look like.

### New Business

OVUC Website – Our Committee isn't listed at this time. Dale will request the addition of this Committee through Theresa Perron.

Our committee's Vision or Statement of Purpose – Dale will draft one for discussion at the August meeting.

Goal of August meeting will be to plan the congregational workshop.

Rev. Don provided Committee members with another resource: *Moving Toward Full Inclusion – Sexual Orientation in the United Church of Canada*

Other:

Rev. Don provided a PDF of another resource for the committee to explore on the topic of Celebrating Gender Identity and Diversity. It will be attached to the email along with these minutes.

***ACTION ITEM No.1***

Vicky Austin has volunteered to establish and maintain the project timeline.

***ACTION ITEM No.2***

Dale MacArthur to request the Affirming Committee be listed on the OVUC Website. She will make the request through Theresa Perron, Administrative Assistant.

***ACTION ITEM No.3 – NOT REQUIRED AT THIS TIME***

Co-leaders will ensure notifications get into the bulletin for a congregational meeting to be held immediately after church to have the Affirming Committee members introduced and to vote on accepting them as an official committee. *Due to having received approval from OVUC Board and having a congregational vote to pursue our mandate, the Committee members will be voted on at the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting.*

***ACTION ITEM No.4***

Dale MacArthur to draft a "Vision" or "Statement of Purpose" for the Committee to be discussed and edited as required at the next meeting.

***ACTION ITEM No.5***

All committee members come prepared to work on planning the first Congregational Workshop

***ACTION ITEM No.6 – CARRIED OVER***

Rev. Don to contact Rev. Joanne McFadden or other Old Testament scholar about leading a congregational workshop on interpretation of scripture.

Vicky shared a closing poem entitled "Presence".

Cheryl Sellsted moved the meeting be adjourned.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**Next Meeting: Sunday – August 18, 2019 @ 11:00 am**  
**OVUC Boardroom**