

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

Absent: Scott Sweatman, Chris Seymour, Cheryl MacDonald, Heather Bishop

Dale called the meeting to Order at 10:40 am

Cheryl Sellsted led the Committee meeting in an opening prayer.

Vicky lit the Rainbow candle.

Cheryl Sellsted motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Carol Wooster seconded. Carried.

Jean Illingworth motioned to approve the minutes from the June 10th meeting as circulated. Vicky Austin seconded. Carried.

Old Business

Affirming Ministries Committee – OVUC Website – Dale explained that every other Committee on the OVUC Website has a mandate. Once our Committee has approved our mandate, Dale will provide our request to the appropriate person(s) to have us added to the website.

Calendar – Vicky has the calendar developed and is up-to-date from inception to today's meeting. At present, it is designed as a project time-line until we begin to have several events planned or assigned. At that time, it will make more sense to use an actual calendar layout

Committee Mandate – Dale drafted a mandate as found on the agenda. She used the word "Gay" as the temporary descriptor for LGBTQ2S people.

Carol Wooster motioned to approve the mandate as presented with the understanding that the statement is fluid and may change as we continue to learn. Vicky Austin seconded the motion. Carried.

Vision/Mission Statement – Dale read a draft of a vision/mandate for the Committee. Discussion occurred with ideas shared. Don suggested for clarification of what a "vision statement" is and what a "mission statement" is. The vision statement presents our goal and the mission statement includes the steps taken to achieve the vision. With this clarification and understanding of the difference between the two statements, Dale will make changes and present another draft at the next meeting.

Plan Congregational Workshop – All, led by Rev. Don

Understanding Scripture workshop will be offered to the congregation on October 6, 2019 following lunch after church as suggested by the Committee members present. Rev. Don will lead the workshop. Don determined that the suggested workshop in the Open Hearts Manual could be condensed from an eight hour to four-hour workshop by cutting out a movie and another video. It was agreed that those resources would be offered to interested congregants

at another time agreeable to everyone. Discussion was held of what the workshop will include, such as break-out groups with Committee members being table facilitators. Don will email his working draft of the workshop on August 23rd, for feedback. Please provide your input to Don by August 30th. The Committee will begin advertising the workshop in the first Bulletin of September. Don will put together the advertisement and submit to Theresa.

New Business

- Next Steps after the first Congregational Workshop:
 - Additional Resources/Training Opportunities:
 1. CBC Documentaries – Vicky said the following documentaries are quite good and can be watched through streaming on CBC website.
 - a. Devout and Out
 - b. Take Me to the Prom
 2. Valley Youth Project – Dale shared that this group of LGBTQ2S young people have a mandate to bring awareness to others through speaking engagements. Dale will contact them and see if someone is available to come to our September 15th meeting to educate us as a Committee. Afterward we will have a good sense if we could use services they offer in a broader context such as another congregational workshop.
 3. Beacon United Church in Yarmouth – can be a resource as they have just gone through the affirming process.
 4. Rainbow Railroad – is equivalent to the Underground Railroad used to provide safe transport and haven to slaves in Canada. The Rainbow Railroad helps LGBT people escape state-sponsored violence. Still today there are 71 countries where being LGBTQ is criminalized, and in eight countries the sentence can be the death penalty. There are two “60 Minutes” segments that can be accessed on their website that look to be of interest. The website is www.rainbowrailroad.com
 5. Potential Guest Speakers – Douglas Beck (an Anglican Deacon), Rev. Leslie Hamilton, Homer Noble, a military member that Don will look into, Thea Burton and her son, Book – Becoming an Ally, by Ann Bishop, Broadview magazine articles (old Observer).
 - Additional Training for Committee Members: conflict resolution (how to handle pushback) – Don suggested that any concern/feedback received by a Committee member should be acknowledged and then offer to the person(s) that their concern will be brought back to the Committee.

<i>ACTION ITEM No.1</i>
Now that the Affirming Committee has an approved mandate, Dale will ensure the Committee gets added to OVUC Website.

ACTION ITEM No.2

Don to email a working draft of the Understanding Scripture congregational workshop on August 23rd, for feedback.

ACTION ITEM No.3

Input/ feedback on working draft of workshop due to Don, not later than, August 30th.

ACTION ITEM No.4

Dale to present another draft of the Vision and Mission statements at the September 15th meeting.

ACTION ITEM No.5

Dale will contact Valley Youth Project to see if someone is available to come to our September 15th meeting to provide information/education for our Committee members.

Cheryl Sellsted offered a closing prayer.

Cheryl Sellsted moved the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

**Next Meeting: Sunday – September 15, 2019 @ 12:30 pm
OVUC Boardroom**