

**Annual Report to Northern Spirit Regional Council
of the United Church of Canada
from the Northern Spirit Affirming Task Group.**

At the November 2019 meeting, the Executive of the Northern Spirit Regional Council approved the formation of an Affirming Task Group answerable to the Executive of Northern Spirit Regional Council.

The objectives of the task group are:

- “1. To conduct an educational/discernment affirming process engaging the Northern Spirit Regional Council and,
2. To bring a recommendation/process to the Northern Spirit Regional Council Meeting in 2020 about becoming an Affirming Regional Council.”

In January of 2020 the Affirming Task Group was formed and consists of the following members:

Rev. Linda McLaren, Minister at Garneau United Church and Chaplain at Ashbourne Assisted Living in Edmonton, Alberta.

Rev. Cathy Kinsman, Minister at Grace United Church in Lloydminster, Alberta.

Rev. Monica Rosborough, Minister at Athabasca United Church in Athabasca, Alberta.

Louise Rogers, Lay member of Sherwood Park United Church, Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Wilson MacLennan, Lay member of Robertson Wesley United Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Affirming Task Group members are assisted by the following people:

Shylo Rosborough, Affirming Ministries Coordinator. Northern Spirit Region, Edmonton, Alberta.

Julie Graham, Justice and Communications Minister, Northern Spirit Regional Council, Prairie to Pine Regional Council, and Living Skies Regional Council, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Linda Hutchinson, Coordinator of Affirming Ministry Program, Kingston, Ontario, and

Shelley Sabo, Volunteer Facilitator, Lay member of Grace United Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Affirming Task Group has met monthly since its formation in January of 2020. The task group is engaged in formulating a program of education and information for presentation to the Northern Spirit Regional Council at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The program will be informative, educational and interactive, with the goal of preparing the Regional Council to endorse the continuation of work that will lead to Northern Spirit Regional Council becoming an Affirming Ministry in the United Church of Canada.

Prayerfully submitted

Rev. Linda McLaren

Affirming Task Group Chairperson