

Annual Report to Northern Spirit Region 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 Affirm 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 gathering in 2020 about becoming an Affirming Regional Council.”

In January of 2020 the Affirming Task Group was formed and currently consist 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.

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.

The Affirming Task Group has met regularly since its formation in January of 2020. The task group made a presentation to the Northern Spirit Regional Council at the 2020 Annual General Meeting and received the blessing of the AGM to continue moving forward with bringing the matter to a future AGM for a vote.

In the past year there have been presentations explaining affirming made to several Communities of Faith throughout the region, the presentations were well received and, in many ways, satisfied the hunger for education. Presentations were also made together with Regional Committees and Communities of Faith from Chinook Winds Region and Pacific Mountain Region.

A presentation, including worship, will be made at the 2021 AGM and will be followed by education programs during the following year.

The Affirming Task Group has not been able to hold in person events during the past year. The meetings have been held electronically and we are pleased with the way that people in our church embraced this form of technology.

Prayerfully submitted

Wilson MacLennan and
Louise Rogers
Affirming Task Group