

Equity Monitor

POLICY NAME: Equity Monitor	Date Approved: March 27, 2019
	Review date:
Purpose: This policy outlines the purpose and function of the Equity Monitor.	

History

The United Church of Canada and the General Council, in its commitment to be an equitable and accessible national church is being called to establish the role of Equity Monitor and encourage all levels of the church to implement a similar role.

The Bay of Quinte Conference, the Executive, various committees and the Presbyteries have adopted the role of Equity Monitor in all their meetings.

Purpose

The role of Equity Monitor is to ensure web content, meetings, workshops, or events follow established protocols for equity, accessibility and communication related issues. As an example, the Monitor can encourage that all PowerPoint slides comply with an established font size protocol.

Many sectors in Canada have established the role of Accessibility Coordinator, similarly, the Equity Monitor can act as a resource between individuals and the various structures of the United Church of Canada to identify gaps or barriers.

The United Church of Canada has committed to be an inclusive church. Should a gap be identified, the Equity Monitor will be available to receive and direct concerns for resolution.

Duties

The volunteer Equity Monitor(s) will work with the planning team of the event/meeting and work through the Equity checklist (see attachment). The Equity checklist is to be used as a guide to strive towards, recognizing that we might not be able to meet all of the points. It is helpful to name what is available on the meeting invite. The Equity Monitor(s) are introduced at the beginning of the event/meeting with a brief description of their role. Equity monitors are to be open and approachable to work through a solution for any additional concerns that may arise during a meeting/event. We have found comfort increase in recent years for people to bring forward their concerns.

Areas of equity concerns that have been identified are:

- meetings held in accessible locations;
- visual loss accommodations (materials sent out 48 hours in advance);
- scent free/nut free environments;
- assistive listening or amplification of speakers;
- speakers self-identifying;
- concern for dietary needs;
- sensitivities for chemicals/scents/food;
- materials printed for those without access to computers/printers;
- when printed items provided also include some large print;
- gender neutral washrooms (can be identified temporarily for that meeting);
- accessible washrooms;
- respect for pronoun use and identity
- inclusive language (also sensitivity to language complexity)
- American Sign Language interpretation
- accommodations for persons with various mental health concerns (quiet spaces available)