

## Affirming Forum

POLICY NAME: Affirming Forum	Date Approved: May 22, 2019
	Review date:
Purpose: To prayerfully discern and respect the wide range of diversities within the East Central Ontario Regional Council.	

### Purpose

We are called to prayerfully discern and respect the wide range of diversities within our Regional Council including, but not limited to, sexual orientation, gender identity, life experience, differing abilities, ethnicity, race, generational differences, age, geographic location and economic circumstances.

The Affirming Forum helps the East Central Ontario Regional Council and the Equity Team create a space and an awareness of what full inclusion would look like. The Affirming Forum will also support the work of the East Central Ontario Regional Council becoming an Affirming East Central Ontario Regional Council.

### Membership

The Affirming Forum will have members who are interested in affirming.

### Meetings

The Affirming Forum will meet three to four times a year, primarily by videoconference call. As needed, and possible, the Affirming Forum may meet in person.

### Duties

The Affirming Forum will be an ongoing body that creates awareness of what full inclusion would look like and makes the Equity Team aware of both where the East Central Ontario Regional Council is lacking and how we might become more fully what we desire. The Equity Team might assign tasks to the Affirming Forum to develop strategies and engage in teaching moments.

The Affirming Forum will advise the Equity Team, Assembly of Elders and the Executive Minister on all matters concerning becoming an Affirming Region. The Affirming Forum will implement the items below on the Interim Action Plan if the vote to become an Interim Affirming East Central Ontario Regional Council is passed with the results of 75% and higher at the Inaugural Meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council set for May 31, 2019 - June 2, 2019.

### **Interim Action Plan June 2019 – 2020**

- Consult with East Central Ontario Regional Council Staff and provide suitable professional development related to working with and for an Affirming Ministry (The Affirming Forum).
- Engage East Central Ontario Regional Council Teams and Forums to discuss and determine their particular Affirming responsibilities and opportunities to ensure that an Affirming culture is in action for all the responsibilities as outlined in the document “Responsibilities of East Central Ontario Regional Councils” received from David Allen November 8, 2018 (The Affirming Forum).
- Assess the interest and need and provide appropriate opportunities and financial support for education on diversity and inclusion across the region (The Affirming Forum).
- Revise the Interim Action Plan as necessary (The Affirming Forum to prepare and present to the Assembly of Elders for approval).
- Prior to the second annual meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council, prepare a progress report and ongoing action plan to submit to Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble for approval. (The Affirming Forum to prepare and present to the Assembly of Elders for approval. The Assembly of Elders will then submit to Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble).