

**ECORC Affirming Forum
Proposed Purpose & Plan of Action for 2021-22**

Updated Affirming Forum Purpose –

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

The EAST CENTRAL ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL (ECORC) Affirming Forum is accountable to the Assembly of Elders and helps ECORC increase awareness and understanding of, create safe space for, deepen commitment to, and work toward full participation of all people in all aspects of the life, worship and work of the Regional Council and wider community. The ECORC Affirming Forum will also support the work of ECORC living into being a public (including through the use of the Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble (AU/SE) logo in all communications), intentional and explicit fully Affirming Regional Council.

Affirming Forum Action Plan for 2021-2022

- Continue to consult and work with ECORC Staff, Assembly of Elders, Teams, and Forums to deepen and broaden understanding in all the ECORC leadership groups by holding, at minimum, an annual learning event. New members will be offered a separate educational session on Affirming principles and practices. The broader objective is to increase understanding of what it means to be an Affirming Ministry across East Central Ontario Regional Council;
- Facilitate, encourage and support a Network of Affirming Ministries within and across East Central Ontario Regional Council;
- Using an intersectionality lens with the commitment of working with other groups, including but not limited to those focussing on anti-racism, Indigenous justice and equity; assess interest and need; and provide appropriate opportunities for education on diversity and inclusion across the Regional Council;
- Define and implement Measurable Goals using the Guiding Principles that follow the ECORC Mission Statement;
- Annually prepare budget; renew AU/SE membership; review, evaluate and update this Action Plan.