

Paul Reed named the Equity Team members:

Phil Wilson, Lynn Watson, Nancy Sutherland, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Deb Fortin Brown, Stephanie Richmond, Wanda Stride, Stacey Tremblay, Max Ward, Nancy Wilson, Sharon Ballantyne(current chair) and staff Sharon Hull

Equity Team ECORC Report for Fall Meeting October 15 2021.

Hi everyone, my name is Sharon Ballantyne and I am the current chair of our Equity team, humbled to work with so many wonderful people. Since our spring meeting, the big focus has been to develop content and create some videos available on the equity playlist channel for our East Central Ontario Regional Council. You will find the YouTube channel on the website and we hope you will take some time to check the videos out. Whether you want to watch a few short clips about why we have equity, learn more about “the elephant in the room,” explore reimagining God, learn about service animals or just what is involved in equity considerations and the equity lens tool of the United Church of Canada, there are great things to learn. Revisit the song we shared last spring “Take Time to Listen” a wonderful gift of music that you might share in your community of faith.

We are excited that in the most recent videos, Phil has been testing a web based platform for video editing and their "auto generate" captioning or subtitling. Phil reports it worked well and easily allowed him to listen and edit any errors. The software is called kapwing, that's K A P W I N G. Watch for more information about kapwing in the coming months. It is part of our commitment to ensure more accessible content.

If you were at the pre-meeting event September 9, you may recall Larry Doyle walking us through the process for proposals and the general plans for the GC44 meeting. GC44 is being done virtually with the theme “Who Do You Say That I am?.” If you have been looking at proposals you will note that there is now a component that asks us to consider equity, item 3 on each proposal reads: 3. How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity? This is a good question to lift up in the life and work of your community of faith. It is an ongoing invitation to “lead with equity” reminding us all that we are all part of the “equity support team,” uplifting equity, helping us all participate together. The term equity monitor, is being replaced with language of “equity support team” inviting everyone's involvement. Some have felt the term “monitor” was uncomfortable. At a brainstorming meeting with the Anti-Racism Equity Officer, Adele Halliday, the equity support team emerged as a more favourable name.

Throughout our time in this meeting, and in every gathering you are part of, you are encouraged to wear your “equity support team” hat and participate, observing all that happens through the lens of equity. During this meeting, we invite you to provide feedback by contacting Deb Brown, Max Ward or Phil Wilson . You can call Phil by phone at 613-377-6406 or send an email to equityecorc@gmail.com

If you or your community of faith would like to learn more please reach out to any member of our equity team. Thanks for listening and taking part.

As I prepare to turn it over to our next presenter, I want to take this moment to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the hard work the Affirming Forum has been doing, advocating and education, leading and learning, being public, intentional and explicit so positively that East Central Ontario Regional Council is now permanently affirming. Congratulations!

The current members of the Affirming Forum are: staff support Sharon Hull, Maggie Allin, Judy Amsbury, Mary-Margaret Boone, Kimberly Collins, Michelle Down, Wilde Ferris, Doug Ferris, Elizabeth Macdonald, Don McLean, Joyce Payne, Patricia Teskey, Sharon Woodrow. I am pleased to welcome Sharon Woodrow, who will share the Affirming Forum report.

Affirm Forum Report to ECORC October 15, 2021

Thank You Sharon Ballantyne and thank you for this opportunity to report.

I am Sharon Woodrow (preferred pronouns she/her) and I am a member at Trinity United Church in Cannington. We are an Affirming congregation and along with 6 other churches we call UCM or United Community Ministry, share one full time minister.

First, on behalf of the Affirming Forum, we thank our Staff Representative, Sharon Hull. Sharon's technical talent and insights are greatly appreciated by this group.

The Affirming Forum is delighted to report that following the Overwhelming vote in favour of becoming fully Affirming at the Spring meeting of ECORC, Affirm United/S' affirmer Ensemble has recognized and designated East Central Ontario Regional Council to be permanently Affirming.

Thank you for that vote and Thank you to all of you who participated in our Celebration on September 29th.

Now we are ready to get to work on our 2021-22 Action Plan. We will continue to work with other Teams, Forums and Regional Council ministries as we all live into the many aspects of Affirming Ministries. We are prepared to facilitate and support Networking efforts among those communities of faith and other ministries, who are already Affirming, those in the process and those exploring the possibility of becoming Affirming. Please feel free to reach out to the members on this Forum.

We remain committed to learning more and addressing – Intersectionality in partnership with those working on Indigenous Justice and Anti-Racism. We are developing Measureable Goals based on the Regional Council's Mission Statement and Guiding Principles, so that we can track and assess the effectiveness of our Affirming Efforts.

Thank you.

Link to ECORC You tube:

Affirming Forum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMMrcJ-zuU0&list=PLYOZZpcZfoZ57-5ri09eaGDjljKf-tXbM>

Equity Team:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVXLA8fmAIY&list=PLYOZZpcZfoZ5v1b8xdIvjRnaIkyUkITe>