



East Central Ontario Region U.C.W.



AFFIRMING MINISTRY VISION STATEMENT

Led by the Holy Spirit,
the United Church Women of East Central Ontario Region
strive to honour and affirm all life.
We celebrate the diversity and gifts of all of God's creation.

AFFIRMING MINISTRY MISSION GOALS

WITNESS: By word and action, we will work for justice and everyone's right to respect and dignity. As such, East Central Ontario Region U.C.W. will:

1. Honour God's creation of people of all ages, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, race and cultural background.
2. Continue to engage in witnessing the good news of Jesus Christ.
3. Work to influence our communities so that we may provide social justice, inclusion and fair and equitable treatment in society.

FELLOWSHIP: Jesus knew no boundaries and reached out to all people, welcoming and honouring all in their uniqueness, regardless of societal status. The U.C.W. is a place of communion, community and fellowship.

As such, East Central Ontario Region U.C.W. will:

1. Live in connection with our own neighbourhoods and communities of faith.
2. Offer fellowship to all, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, race and cultural background.
3. Build community across the region and link us to the National U.C.W.

STUDY: The Bible is the core story of God's relationship with us.

As such, the East Central Ontario Region U.C.W. will:

1. Continue our intentional learning to be truly affirming of all people.
2. Study the gospels and words of our saviour with all members of our organization.
3. Provide leadership to broaden knowledge and deepen understanding of all aspects of our global life and work.

SERVICE: We are called to live out our mission through faithful loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ. As such, the East Central Ontario Region U.C.W. will:

1. Seek to live the spirit of the gospel.
2. Celebrate the richness that diversity brings to our church and life.
3. Continue in service to our membership, the wider community and all in our world.

AFFIRMING MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

East Central Ontario Region UCW will continue to live out our mission as an Affirming Ministry.

1. We will seek for ways to give **witness** to our Affirming Ministry through communication and action.

Examples: On our invitations, event registration forms and correspondence, we will state that East Central Ontario Region UCW is an Affirming Ministry and include the Affirm United logo. We will use the rainbow UCW logo on facebook page and in reporting to our membership and the public. Those attending our events will have the option to indicate their pronoun preference.

2. We will **study** and review our Action Plan annually at an Executive meeting.

Examples: We will reflect on the past year's actions and identify specific actions for focus for the upcoming year. Meeting devotions at the meeting could focus on Affirming Ministry. We will identify an Affirming Ministry lead on our executive to provide links to resources and events supporting and celebrating affirming ministry.

3. We will **gather to celebrate** our Affirming Ministry at every ECOR UCW Annual Meeting.

Examples: We will include celebration of our ministry for all people; e.g., in visual symbol(s), dedication of a hymn, moment of reflection, and/or recognition of our Affirming Ministry Anniversary.

4. In a spirit of **service** to the total mission of the church, we will support the Affirming Ministry work of Affirm United and the East Central Ontario Regional Council.

Examples: We will make an annual contribution to Affirm United and encourage members to participate in the Affirm United Annual National Conference and/or other local or regionally organized events.