

AFFIRMING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2019 MEETING

Present: Liz Dillman, Judy Zarubick, Marion Boyd, Emily Perry,  
Catharine Crawford

Regrets: Pam Plagos, Brent Williams, Lauren Williams, Nathan Williams,  
Shirley Bieman

Liz led the group in an opening prayer

Agenda was accepted

Minutes of July 27, 2019 were accepted with no changes.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. Follow up to the Skit
  - unfortunately there were microphone issues so congregation did not hear everything (microphone has been replaced)
  - heard good things at the time we presented
  - did get some negative feedback later
    - some members don't want this shoved down their throats
    - upset that the word "lesbian" was used - it was actually not said
  - consider doing it again (not in the service) and then discuss/analyze it
  
2. Follow up to Materials Handed Out
  - received no comments about these
  - none were left behind in the pews
  - people have picked up the handout from a week they missed
  - thanked Emily, Marion and Catharine for speaking during the announcements those weeks – they all did a great job
  - *Emily will remind people copies are still available at the back*
  - *Liz will send an announcement to be put in Sunday Announcements*
  - *Liz will put together a few packages which can be put in the bookcase at the office entry*

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Presenting movie "the Bible tells me so" – November 23, 2019
  - Pine River would like to join us for this
  - decided to show it on November 23, 2019 and invite Pine River to join us
  - start at 9:30 and we will order in a lunch for this
  - will need to get posters made and also put in the bulletin
  - we will need to have people sign up for lunch so we know how much to order
    - Judy agreed to receive the emails and calls for signing up

2. Town Hall Meeting
  - discussed having a Town Hall about why we are doing this
    - reminder this is for education of all of us
    - dispel myths of why we are doing this
      - not so the only people joining are LGBTQ
      - doing it to make sure everyone is welcome here
      - fulfill Christ's vision to love all
      - no one is unwelcome here (different than all are welcome)
      - discernment and awareness
  - address the statement "I am tired of hearing about this" – Why?
  - what prejudice gets you upset?
  - explain what the outcomes of becoming Affirming will be
3. Redo Skit – late April 2020
  - discussion and catered lunch
  - hear it in a different way this time
  - use pew cards to introduce the skit
    - how do you feel welcome?
    - how do you feel unwelcome?
    - use the "who is welcome here?" list
    - review behavioural covenant – why we say it
  - will record the skit, play it on large TV, stop and discuss it at various Points
  - have actors explain how they felt being different characters
    - could also be taped
  - more rehearsal next time and hopefully memorized lines
  - can also share the taped skit with other churches
4. Guest Speaker – June 2020
  - bring in a guest speaker that can relate experience in United Church as a LGBTQ person
  - suggestions for Speakers
    - Tim Raeburn
    - Richard Chambers (Gord's brother-in-law)
5. Affirming Workshop – fall of 2020
  - ask Micol to facilitate
  - use the Resource on page 33 of handbook "Affirming Ministries – The Basics"
6. Committee Resources
  - consider having Kevin and Charlie speak to the committee
7. 2020 Budget
  - decided 2010 budget should be \$1,000 to cover speakers, lunches etc

6. Discussed some Feedback from Grace United Affirming Vote
- Catharine had a chance to discuss what happened at Grace with a member of the congregation
    - people were not well informed
    - need to explain what outcomes may be
    - created a divide in the congregation
    - people are feeling "voted against" personally
    - people are hurt – don't feel comfortable in their own church anymore
  - need to be aware of the negative impacts vote can have and work to ensure they are minimized here
  - can do a consensus vote first
  - there is no hurry to get to the vote – if it take years, it takes years and we continue to educate people

### **SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Movie Screenin	November 23, 2019
Skit	Late April 2020
Guest Speaker	June 2020
Affirming Workshop	Fall 2020

### **NEXT MEETING**

Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 12 in the Resource Room.