

AGENDA for the CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sept 15, 2019 – immediately after worship

1. The attendance sheet will be circulated. Quorum for a congregational meeting is 20.
2. Call to order: Paul Elfner
3. Opening Prayer: Rev. Greg Wooley
4. Appointment of chair for this meeting
5. Appointment of secretary for this meeting
6. Eligibility to vote: a motion is welcomed to allow all in attendance who see themselves as part of this community of faith, to be eligible to vote at this meeting.
7. Acceptance of agenda:
8. Voting process for “Affirm Motion #1”: a motion is welcomed for the vote on the “Affirm Motion #1” to be by secret ballot. (Ballots will be distributed)
9. **Motion #1: that the congregation of Ralph Connor Memorial United Church become an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada. A 75% threshold has been recommended by Affirm United, and accepted by the RCMUC Affirming Ministry group and RCMUC Council.**
10. A time of silent reflection and quiet music will follow, as ballots are counted.
11. Results of the first motion will be shared.
12. **Motion #2: that the Affirming Vision Statement be adopted. See Appendix A, below.**
13. **Motion #3: that the Affirming Plan set out the specific commitments which the congregation will undertake. See Appendix B, below.**
14. Further discussion
15. Adjournment.

APPENDIX A: THE AFFIRMING VISION STATEMENT (for motion #2, above)

AFFIRMING VISION STATEMENT of RALPH CONNOR MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH, CANMORE – a community of faith on the traditional lands of the Stoney Nakoda First Peoples:

We affirm Christ's love and desire for justice, inclusion, and affirmation for all, and Christ's identification with those who have been marginalized.

- We strive to be a community of faith in which all persons are fully included in all aspects of our life and work. We strive to publicly and explicitly welcome, care for, and learn from all persons, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, social or economic circumstance.

We affirm the present RCMUC Mission Statement, which shapes the choices and priorities of this community of faith:

- *“Ralph Connor Memorial United Church's Mission as a Church Community is:
 - to nurture the spiritual exploration and growth of all our members and adherents;
 - to be an intentionally inviting Christian community that seeks, welcomes and embraces new members;
 - to reach out and become an agent for social justice in our neighbourhood and in the global community”.*

We affirm our need to connect and align with other communities, within and beyond our faith tradition, who desire to actively work for inclusion and justice.

- We will continue to engage in study, education and dialogue through workshops, advocacy, events and broader partnerships as we continue our journey.

We understand that these commitments are essential for a thriving, healthy Affirming Ministry.

APPENDIX B: THE AFFIRMING MINISTRY PLAN – see overleaf (for motion #3, above)

APPENDIX B: THE AFFIRMING MINISTRY PLAN (for motion #3, overleaf)

In addition to the many Outreach initiatives already supported by RCMUC,

I. WE COMMIT TO THESE ACTIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION:

- Put up Affirm signage in and around our church (in addition to the current rainbow flags).
- Make PIE Day an annual event, a time for learning, support & encouragement of LGBTQ2+ persons/issues.
- Host the “Screenings with Meanings” film series again next summer.
- Work toward full accessibility of our Church facility.
- Continue to have exposure to/learn from marginalized people who can help educate us through speakers, weekend workshops, Affirming Moments, worship leaders.
- Throw an Affirm celebration party after our vote and mark this with an annual Affirming Anniversary celebration.
- Participate in pride parades, and in the local Canada Day parade.
- Continue to participate in the Affirm Calgary group.
- Make funding available for participation in workshops and conferences promoting community enrichment and inclusion, e.g. the national Affirm gathering.
- Remain open to new ideas, and be ready to respond to local needs.
- Request that the RCMUC Council make the following structural changes:
 - Disband the present *Affirming Ministry Working Group*, which had the task of guiding the initial period of study leading to the congregational vote, and establish a new *Affirming Ministry Committee* tasked with guiding and enabling our continuing journey as an Affirming Congregation; and
 - Establish a “*Community Enrichment and Inclusion*” working group (with budget, starting in 2020) to nurture RCMUC’s capacity to reach beyond our own boundaries in ways that are in keeping with our Mission Statement and Affirming Vision Statement.

II. WE COMMIT TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY AROUND US IN THESE WAYS:

- Encourage the Town of Canmore rainbow crosswalk initiative, preferably near RCMUC.
- “Stir the pot” in Canmore, by
 - engaging with other organizations to get a better sense of how marginalized peoples are managed/treated/supported;
 - becoming a “hub” in our community for engagement;
 - reaching out to other Bow Valley social action organizations.
- Build connections with the Two-Spirit First Nation community in the Bow Valley.
- Work with the Gay-Straight Alliances at local schools in an effort to bring them together.
- Encourage the establishment of a PFLAG chapter in the Bow Valley (originally known as “Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays,” now just “PFLAG”).
- Explore worship possibilities with groups presently under-represented in our community of faith.
- Communicate with Rundle Memorial UC, Banff, as they consider the Affirming process.
- Explore the appetite in communities of faith in Chinook Winds Region for a Social Justice network that would include a commitment to justice for LGBTQ2+ persons and communities, among others, and work with others who are willing to nurture such a network into a relevant and effective body.