

Executive and Communities of Faith Commission: Affirming Ministry Committee Policy

This policy outlines the purpose, accountability, authority, membership and responsibilities of the Affirming Ministry Committee and the relationship with the Communities of Faith Commission.

Date Approved: April 28, 2026	Review date by the Commission: 2028
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Purpose

The purpose of the Affirming Ministry Committee is to help the regional council to live into our commitment to be an Affirming Ministry and to provide support to Affirming Ministries within the region.

Accountability

The Affirming Ministry Committee is accountable to the Communities of Faith Commission.

Authority

The responsibility for being a Regional Affirming Ministry rests with the Executive; support to communities of faith is the responsibility of the Communities of Faith Commission. The committee will make recommendations to the Communities of Faith Commission with respect to supporting Affirming Ministry within the Regional Council. Where appropriate, the committee and/or Commission may consult with the Executive.

Membership

A committee of four individuals, open to lay people and ministry personnel with experience and skills that would be helpful. As much as possible the committee will reflect the geographic diversity of Affirming Ministries within the region.

Terms of Office

Members of the Committee will be elected by the Regional Council with staggered terms. The term will be for three years with a renewal for one term. After a one-year hiatus, an individual may be elected again.

Quorum

Quorum will be 50% plus one.

Meetings

The committee will meet in person or by electronic or other means at least quarterly, or more frequently as needed.

Responsibilities

Shining Waters Regional Council is an Affirming Ministry. The Regional Policy identifies a key component of the our call as “welcoming people of all ages, abilities, races, sexual orientations and gender identities, and any other forms of marginalization into, and removing barriers to, the life, work and leadership of the Region and our communities of faith.”

The committee is responsible for developing a plan for supporting Affirming Ministries within the region. This includes reviewing an annual budget and recommending it to the commission for approval. The committee will support regional affirming work including PIE Day, the Region’s annual worship service celebrating that we are an Affirming Ministry, and other projects/events. The committee will also support Affirming Networks within the region.

Staff Support

The Minister for Justice and Faith Formation will provide support to the committee. The Minister is able to authorize expenses that fall within the approved budget for Affirming Ministry.