

FOR DISCUSSION - Policy Review Schedule

At the meeting on June 19, 2017 the Executive reflected on policy review in light of being an Affirming Ministry. Below are two excerpts from the minutes:

“The Executive talked about the kind of questions it would ask when reviewing Conference policies in light of being an Affirming Ministry.

- Whose voices have we heard and not heard?
- Consider the following: purpose, utility, necessity. Is it necessary? What is its purpose? Does it do what it’s intended to do?
- Are there any unintended consequences of this policy?
- Who is impacted by this policy?
- Is the policy consistent with the vision statement adopted at the annual meeting? Is it consistent? Is it not consistent? In what ways?”

“Embracing diversity policy: The Executive reviewed the embracing diversity policy in light of becoming an Affirming Ministry. It engaged in considerable discussion about the role of this policy and how it relates to the Affirming Ministry vision statement. Some suggestions:

- Add people with disabilities
- Add sexual orientation and gender identity
- Include race and ethnicity
- Take first line and put in mission statement

The Executive AGREED to put the discussion on this policy on hold until hearing back from the group bringing material to the September Executive meeting.”

We now know that the Conference will cease to exist as of December 31, 2018, provided the remits are enacted by the 43rd General Council. In the materials about Remit Implementation, Conferences are being asked to identify what information will be important to pass on to the new regions. Currently only two of the Ontario Conferences are currently Affirming Ministries, Toronto and Bay of Quinte. Not all Conferences employ a policy governance model in their work. Once the boundaries are set and the Regional Executive Secretaries are appointed, it will become the work of the new regions to develop a governance structure and policies to support it.

Questions: Is it a good use of time for the Executive to continue to review and update policies that will no longer be in effect in a year?
Alternatively is this work that could be of benefit to those establishing the new regions?
Is there benefit to the Conference for the remaining year to review some policies using the lens of being an Affirming Ministry, such as Embracing Diversity, Principles of Conduct and Accessibility?