Affirming Process

As we prepare for the decision as to whether or not TSA should become an Affirming Ministry the Council would like to know the following details about the decision process:

1. the vote will be taken on October 21 at a congregational meeting following worship.
2. all full members and adherents of TSA will be entitled to vote.\*
3. you must be present at the meeting to vote.
4. a 75% or greater “yes” vote will be deemed sufficient for us to become an Affirming Ministry.
5. the vote will be by secret ballot.

You may notice that this process is different from the one followed two years ago. At that time, trying to insure maximum involvement, we made a number of changes to our denominations’ usual procedures. This time we are following the wisdom of the United Church’s polity. Our denomination believes that the spirit is present in our meetings and the wisdom of that spirit is being discerned in our discussions. Therefore everyone participating in a decision must be present. The percentage vote needed is being changed from 80% to 75% since that is the level recommended by Affirm United. We trust that these changes will make the process more transparent and fair for all.

\* Adherents are people who contribute regularly to the life and work of the congregation but who are not full members.