

***WHAT IS AN AFFIRMING CHURCH?**

The church publicly declares their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We commit to proclaiming and following Jesus' way, of love and compassion, not a way of judgement and condemnation.

We name and honour the diversity of family configurations, relationships and life experiences.

We strive to be a community of nurturing and support for LGBTQ+ folk. We display signs and symbols, we are listed on a national registry of Affirming Ministries and we state our Affirming stance on our website and in our publications.

We perform same-sex weddings.

Our church makes an ongoing commitment to work for justice, to promote reconciliation and healing, and to create equity for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities within the church and wider society.

We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, races, cultures and abilities.

We use hymns with explicit themes of welcome and inclusion.

We continue to learn and grow as a community by holding workshops on issues of racism or white privilege; by creating a library of books and other resources for people to borrow and share.

We have a wide diversity of members and adherents, including LGBTQ+ and heterosexual families, seniors, children, youth, and singles. We offer a safe and supportive place for all and encourage participation in everything we do.

We provide a supportive and non-judgmental place so everyone can grow in faith in an atmosphere of respect and justice for people from all walks of life.

**This material was sourced from the "Open Hearts Resource Manual for Affirming Ministries in the United Church of Canada", pages 10-15. Revised edition January 2017.*