

“IT’S A (ST. ANDREW’S) KIND OF CHURCH

(AROUND THE SUPPER TABLE)

MOM How was the board meeting last night, John?

DAD We got a lot accomplished. There’s finally an answer about the furnace and it looks like it will cost a lot less than we thought.

MOM I’ll bet that put everyone in a good mood.

DAD Yeah, until we got to a certain item on the agenda.... Lisa brought us that information about becoming an affirming ministry, and it caused a bit of a stir.

JANE What’s an affirming ministry , Dad.

DAD It’s a church, or a presbytery or an organization like the UCW, that’s welcoming and accepting of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

JANE Does that mean we’re an affirming church?

DAD Well, not really Jane, ... in order to be officially an affirming ministry, we go through a study process, get people talking, share ideas.

Once we are sure we are truly accepting ,once people agree, then we can say we are an affirming ministry.

MOM That’s what bothers me, John, and I wish Lisa would stop pushing it! We ARE welcoming. There are lots of gay and lesbian people in our congregation. They wouldn’t be here if they didn’t feel welcome!

JANE There’s Kim and Darlene in the choir...right , Mom?

MOM Yes,... and they wouldn't feel comfortable in the choir if the rest of the choir didn't make them feel welcome.

DAD But they're not here because we invited them or publically said "This is the church for you" it all just kind of happened. And we know a lot of people are OK with it, ... our friends for example. But not everyone is as open-minded as we are. We can't speak for everyone.

JANE Has anyone ever been mean to Kim and Darlene... or said they don't want gays in our church?

MOM Not that I know of, Jane. We're not that kind of people here

DAD The thing about it though, Cathy, is that there may be lots of people here who aren't accepting. They just aren't saying anything because they are nice people or maybe they feel outnumbered.

If we had a study group, those people could share their feelings...learn something maybe. It's the fair thing to do. And then if we truly are as affirming as we think we are, we can make it official.

JANE And then, maybe even Joshua would come to church!