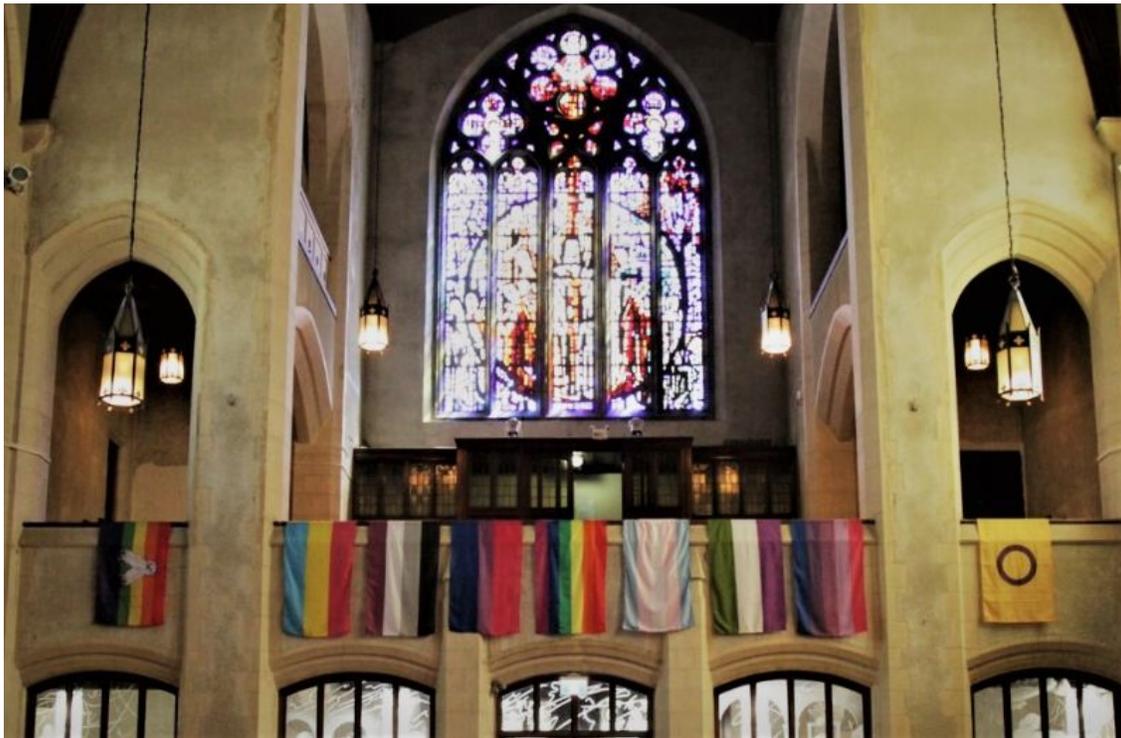


Here's the latest news from Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Important (and free!) new resources of note:

Federal election 2019 kit and conversion therapy questions for candidates; fully updated gender diversity resource; Mandate magazine; Two Spirit powwow video; PIE Day and worship.

All kinds of free tools for your ministry!

(Photo: LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit flags at St Andrew's Wesley United Church in Vancouver, at the 2017 Spirit Pride/ Affirming annual conference collaboration.)

Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble is a grassroots network that relies on many partnerships in its core work of advocating for and supporting safer sacred spaces. Our family tree includes communities of many different paths and traditions; our roots are mostly United Church. We welcome the solidarity and support shown by the United Church's General Council office as together **we've widened the range of resources that support the discernment, practice, and prayer in which any Affirming journey is grounded.** Read on for some

Federal election and Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ conversations

This October we'll collectively elect a new federal government. Just as elected officials have responsibilities, so do their communities. People of faith are called to live out the responsibilities of citizenship and of discipleship, so the national church has prepared an [election kit of questions and background info that can be used to talk through issues of importance](#) with your riding's candidates. All of them: as registered charities, AUSE and the United Church are non partisan and engage candidates of all parties.

One of those sets of questions focuses on [so-called conversion therapy](#), in which pseudo medical or counselling practices, often supposedly Christian, are used to try to change someone's LGBTQIA+ identity. **The results are often deeply damaging and can include suicide. This practice continues in Canada**, and the federal government recently refused to use Health Canada powers to ban it. Please have a look at this short and crucial resource, even as you look at other resources in the election kit that can help you speak to a wide range of rights and responsibilities. *(Above: citizens protesting the Alberta government's closure of a working group to ban conversion therapy and its rollback of privacy rules protecting student members of Gay-Straight Alliances, June 2019.)*



Xtra magazine has recently published some [good analysis of transphobia](#) and homophobia in past and present campaigning; this kind of context can help us understand what leads to conversion therapy, and why so many governments and politicians won't address it.

Relaunch! Celebrating Gender Diversity Toolkit

This excellent and widely used resource has been completely updated and is (still) completely free. It's essential, even life-saving, that our sacred spaces celebrate the gifts trans, non-binary, genderqueer, and Two Spirit people bring to our faith and community life. This comprehensive toolkit gives you many, many practical avenues for change in your ministry. [Please download your copy](#), whether you're Affirming, on the journey, or not there yet. There is always something positive we can do. [Looking for yet more resources? See the entire range of options.](#)

This special issue, from Spring 2018, focuses on LGBTQI+ and Two-Spirit justice. Inside you'll find articles on why the United Church's Affirming journey has only just begun; intersectionality; chronicling the impact of 1988; a timeline of LGBTQ2S+ justice in the United Church; a glossary of key terms and concepts; as well as worship resources, a Bible study, workshops, youth programming, and more—all moving toward affirming, healing, and renewal for all.

United Church Resource Distribution (UCRD) has graciously provided us with a complimentary special digitalized issue of

Mandate's "The Affirming Journey" from Spring 2018. To request your copy, please email jsullivan@united-church.ca or communications@ause.ca. An email will be sent to you with a link to where you can view and/or download this special issue.

Video: Two Spirit powwow and the Healing Fund

In the spring of 2018, Indigenous and community groups in Saskatoon held a Two Spirit powwow. One of the first of its kind, and possibly the first in Canada, it was deeply important circle of spirit and prayer. The United Church was honoured to support this work through the Healing Fund. Mission and Service offers us this [3 minute video on the powwow](#) and its importance. Please share during worship and/ or community times in your ministry, adding this resource to [AUSE's 2019 PIE Day video](#) and to [many videos from Affirming ministries](#).

PIE Day 2020 and Pride Sunday 2020

On March 14 Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble will once again offer resources to help you have fun with pie and with PIE: how to offer a Public, Intentional, and Explicit welcome to people with diverse genders and sexualities. Watch www.pieday.ca The United Church will be part of promoting this second annual day of serious fun, serious dessert, and serious discernment and commitment. And on Sunday June 7 the church is invited to again celebrate Pride Sunday. Mark your 2020 calendar!





Follow us
[@AffirmUnited](#)



Follow in [French](#)
Follow in [English](#)



Share



Tweet



Forward



+1



Read Later

Copyright © 2015 Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble, all rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Affirm United Canada
PO Box 57057, Somerset Stn
Ottawa, ON K1R 1A1
Canada

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to communications@ause.ca

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Affirm United Canada · PO Box 57057 Somerset Stn · Somerset Stn · Ottawa, ON K1R 1A1 · Canada

