

**Important message:
2020 changes to membership fees for Affirm
United/S'affirmer Ensemble.
Please read and share!**



Dear Affirming Ministries, ministries in the Affirming process, individuals/households and others: greetings from the Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble (AUSE) National Council,

We write with important news related to membership fees. At the 2019 AGM in Calgary, members present voted to make changes to the institutional and individual membership fees for the first time in over 20 years. In this mailing you will find:

- Current context: a brief overview
- How the membership fee increase works: an explanation of the new institutional/group/individual/household membership fees
- What your membership fees have been supporting, 2015-2019
- What your increased membership fees will allow us to do over time: the beginnings of a vision of what extra funding could accomplish
- Contact information

This letter is being sent by print mail to all existing members, and by email to our national contacts list. It will also be available on our website. **Les communications qui suivent sont également disponibles en français.**

Summary:

The 2019 AGM approved increases in AUSE membership fees as follows:

- that community of faith (congregational) membership fees for Affirming Ministries be 1/20 of 1% of net revenue, to a maximum of \$500 and a minimum of \$100. Net revenue is the basis on which the United Church bases its congregational assessments. Affirming Ministries and members will be invoiced by Affirm United in the spring of each year.
- that Regional Council membership fees be \$1,000
- that non-congregational ministries which are Affirming pay what they can between \$100 (the former flat membership fee) and \$500
- that individual/household membership fees increase to \$50 (while retaining the option of a reduced or free membership fee.)

Please turn over →

Please share this letter and the accompanying background information widely in your ministry, especially with governing, finance, Affirming, and program or justice-related bodies. Please take time to read the entire letter, not only the summary. This is an important change for AUSE and our members, and we have tried to explain both the reasons and the process as fully as we can.

Getting in touch:

We encourage you to raise any concerns and questions you may have with the Council. Here are the lead contacts:

Michiko Bown-Kai, co-chair: ausecochair@gmail.com

Anne Wood, treasurer: annew@cogeco.ca

We thank you for the safer sacred space you and your ministry continue to create. Thank you for all you as supporters and members have offered this growing movement of trans, non-binary, Two Spirit, intersex, asexual, pansexual, bi, lesbian, gay people and communities—and our cisgender and heterosexual allies. You are the reason for our name: ensemble (together) and united.

Invitation to all: AUSE national conference 2020

We will continue the conversation about membership, budget, and future visions at our 2020 **annual conference**. **All people of all identities are invited**. Join our hosts for London Pride, community, worship, and for visioning towards AUSE's future:

July 24-26, 2020, First-St Andrew's United Church, London, Ontario,

on the lands of Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples-
London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant
Wampum.