

Nominations to Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble Council 2020

Members at Large & Co-Chair

Mallory Brennan

She/Her | Wesley-Knox (London, ON) | Antler River Watershed

Nominated: Member at Large

Mallory works as the Assistant Director / Administrative Assistant / Waterfront Director (depending on the need), at Rainbow Camp in northern Ontario. Rainbow Camp is a safe space camp experience for 2SLGBTQ+ youth aged 12-17. Mallory has experience working with 2SLGBTQ+ teens and their families, running camp programs, educational and advocacy work. She is currently the Chair of the Affirming Committee at her home church and has participated in the AUSE AGM and conference in 2018.

Why does this opportunity interest you?

- “Meeting like-minded people.”
- “Learning more both for myself and to share with others.”
- “Interest in the organizational structure of AUSE.”

Anthony Smith

He/Him | St Andrew's United (Chatham, ON) | Antler River Watershed

Nominated: Member at Large

Anthony has years of experience serving on the CK Pride Association of Chatham-Kent, ON Board of Directors as well as serving at his home church on the Worship, Mission and Outreach committees and in the Children's Ministry.

Why does this opportunity interest you?

- “Because we are called to be instruments of God's love and peace to ALL regardless of denomination, gender, sexual orientation.”

René Aguilar

He/Him | Mount Royal United Church, Mount Royal, QC | Nakonhaka

Nominated: Co-Chair

René and his husband have been married for eight years and are the proud parents of two young girls. As a family they have found it hard to find a faith community that would embrace their diverse family, until they joined Mount Royal United Church in January of 2020. At Mount Royal they found acceptance, but more importantly, a venue to raise their daughters in the principles of their faith and the missions of inclusion, social justice and gratitude. As a family, they feel blessed to have found an accepting community of faith.

Rene is a Title Attorney licensed to practice law in the Province of Québec, and the co-owner of a boutique law firm specializing in not-for-profit organizations. He is very familiar with AGM's, board meetings, preparing agendas, drafting resolutions, keeping corporate records and in general dealing with Corporations Canada and the Registraire Québec. René also serves as the treasurer to his law firm and is familiar with reviewing expenses and dealing with annual financial statements.

Why does this opportunity interest you?

- “Being relatively new members to Mount Royal United Church, we are looking for ways to thrive and contribute to the growth of our community.”
- “To promote greater awareness, within the faith community, of issues and stigma faced by LGBTQ+ families.”

David Hall

He/Him | Silver Spire United Church, St. Catharines, ON | Horseshoe Falls

Nominated: Member at Large

David is currently the Interim Director of Music at Silver Spire United Church in St. Catharines, ON and acts as the Chair of the Affirm Committee there. As the Chair of the Affirm Committee, David guided the church to become an Affirming Ministry. He attended the Affirm United AGM and Conference in Calgary last year which solidified his belief in the good work Affirm United does across Canada.

David is also excited to witness the ecumenical work being done with the Generous Space Ministries bringing the affirming process to other denominations. He has watched Generous Space evolve over the last 20 years from a reparative/conversion therapy model to the inclusive affirming model it has become today.

Currently David acts as a facilitator at the St. Catharines Generous Space group which has been running for the last four years. He also brings with him a background in human resources and various church positions including, minister, moderator, elder, teacher, and worship leader.

Why does this opportunity interest you?

- “I believe passionately in churches becoming affirming ministries. Having chaired the committee that guided our church to becoming an affirming ministry, I have seen the positive impact and beauty unfolding individually and corporately in our community of faith. Attending, engaging and worshipping at the conference in Calgary in 2019 reinforced my belief in the need and good work of AUSE. I would be honoured to assist the organization as a member at large.”