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

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Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble works for the full inclusion of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations in the United Church of Canada and in society.

Nous puisons force et espoir dans les histoires bibliques de libération; de l'appel prophétique à vivre justement, à aimer tendrement et à marcher humblement avec Dieu; et du témoignage de Jésus à l'amour inclusif de Dieu.

Wishing for a Better World

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This week during Mental Health Awareness Week, Co-Chair Rev. Cindy Bourgeois reflects on a better world for all with a blog post she wrote for the United Church of Canada.

[Read more here ...](#)

The Kitchen Sink presents: Should we Empower or Make Space? with Guest Speaker Thea Sheridan-Jonah on Tuesday May 18th at 7pm

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You are invited!

Tuesday May 18th, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30pm EDT

You're invited to join Affirm United as we gather online every third Tuesday night of the month for a time of friendship and learning together in community. This is your chance to connect with people from across the country who share your passion for Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ justice and issues.

Thea Sheridan-Jonah will be talking about her experience as a youth in the church, the times when she has been empowered and the times when space has been created for her and others.

When we talk about safer and brave spaces we often don't touch on the difference between empowering people and intentionally making space for people, their identities, their discomfort, their fears, their joy.

Thea will be focusing on how empowerment upholds the power imbalance and social hierarchies that exist in our society and how empowerment can be both necessary and harmful. There will be time for discussion, questions, and learning together.

[Read More ...](#)

Kamloops United Church
25 Years Affirming!

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CELEBRATIONS!



On May 16, 2021 Kamloops United Church in Kamloops, British Columbia will celebrate a very special 25 Year Anniversary of Affirming Ministry!

Send your congratulations to office@kamloopsunited.ca or use this form below to send your message!

An Affirming Celebration for Westworth United Church

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An Affirming celebration is planned for Westworth United Church:

All are welcome to a celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry for Westworth United Church:

Date: Sunday May 9, 2021

Time: 10:45 a.m. On website or YouTube channel

Location: 1750 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg MB R3N 0H9

Website: <http://westworth.ca/>

Phone: (204) 489-6974

Please send a note of congratulations to the entire faith community of Westworth United Church via email send congratulations directly to office@westworth.ca

An Affirming Celebration for Woodcliff United Church!

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An Affirming Celebration is planned for May 16th, 2021

All are welcome to a celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry for Woodcliff United Church on May 16, 2021!!

Time: 10 am

Location: Online Service accessed from Woodcliff UC website or Woodcliff UC Youtube channel

Website: <https://woodcliffunited.com/>

Phone: 403-249-3121

Please send a note of congratulations to the entire faith community of Woodcliff United Church directly to this email: office@woodcliffunited.com

An Affirming Celebration for Duncan United!

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It's an Affirming celebration for Duncan United Church!

All are welcome to a celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry for
Duncan United Church!

Date: Sunday May 16, 2021

Time: 10 a.m. (PDT)

Location: 246 Ingram Street Duncan BC V9L 1P4

Website: www.duncanunited.org

Phone: 250-746-6043

Email for sending congratulations admin@duncanunited.org

Toronto East End United Regional Ministry Affirming Celebration in pictures!

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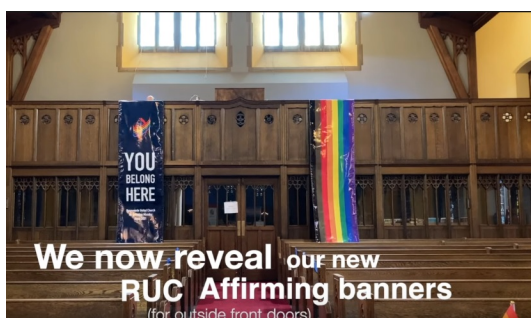
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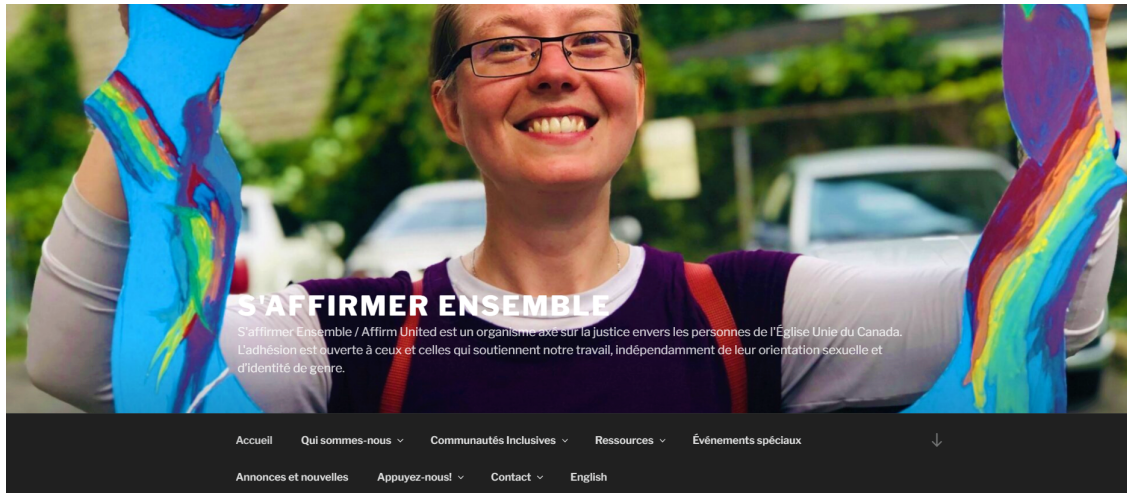
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Runnymede United's Affirming

Many thanks to Runnymede United Church for sharing their Affirming Ministry Celebration photos ... it was a full day with Sunday morning worship at 10:30am on YouTube Live, a 1pm celebration service on YouTube and then a 'party' at 2pm on Zoom), including the unravelling of two new Affirming banners that will be hung outside the church front doors facing Runnymede Road!!! Blessings to you all!!! 🍷🍷🍷



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Notre site en français a été mis à jour ... vous souhaitez contribuer? Courriel communications@ause.ca

[Visitez le site ici ...](#)

Affirming Leaders Day



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Affirming Leaders Day is a faith-based development & connection day
for allied and LGBTQ2S+ folks

Featuring Civil Rights Activist **Rev. James Lawson**, Queer
Singer/Songwriter **Semler**, and Pop Culture
Critic/Scholar/Author **Anthony Oliveira!**

When: Saturday, May 22, 2021, 10am-4:30pm MDT

Where: Zoom Webinar

Tickets: \$15-\$30. Every ticket type gives you access to ALL of the sessions.

Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble members and associates get a special \$5 off discount ... use this code when checking out

promo code: **AUSE** will get registrants \$5 off a ticket of any type

[GET YOUR TICKETS HERE!](#)

[Read more here ...](#)



SOGIECE/Conversion Therapy Research Project

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A research project for 2S-LGBTQ+ people harmed by expectations of change.

Join Us!

2S-LGBTQ+ people who have been harmed by expectations of change are invited to:

- Complete a Survey
- Join a Focus Group
- Email in Responses
- Request an Interview

Take the Survey

April 14 - July 14, 2021

generousspace.ca



Un projet de recherche pour les personnes 2S-LGBTQ+ lésées par les attentes de changement.

Rejoignez-nous!


Les personnes 2SLGBTQ+ qui ont été victimes d'efforts de conversion sont invitées à:

- Remplir un questionnaire en ligne
- Se joindre à un groupe de discussion
- Répondre à des questions par courriel
- Participer à une entrevue individuelle

Accès au sondage!

Du 14 avril au 14 juillet 2021

generousspace.ca



Help Develop Supports for SOGIECE/Conversion Therapy Survivors!

April 14-July 14, 2021

We encourage everyone who is eligible to participate in a community-based research project, created by survivors, for survivors.

2S-LGBTQ+ people who have been harmed by expectations of change (subtle or blatant, religiously-based or not), are invited to: Complete an Online Survey, submit an Email Response, join a Focus Group, request a One-on-One Interview.

Take the Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F7RWXNM>

Our focus is to listen to those who have been harmed, assess support needs through an intersectional lens, develop an advocacy plan, and work with Canadian partners to deliver the supports needed to recover.

This project is funded by The Women and Gender Equality Department of Canada's LGBTQ2 Community Capacity Fund.

www.generousspace.ca/sogiece-project

REMINDER: Affirming Ministries submit your 2020 Annual Reports to Michele AU/SE's Communications Coordinator at communications@ause.ca before May 31, 2021

SAVE THE DATE:
Tentative dates for Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble
Virtual Annual General Meeting:
July 24th & 25th, 2021

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Video Resources:



Runnymede United Church Affirming Ministry Celebration April 25, 2021



Toronto East End Regional Ministry Affirming Celebration Photo Gallery

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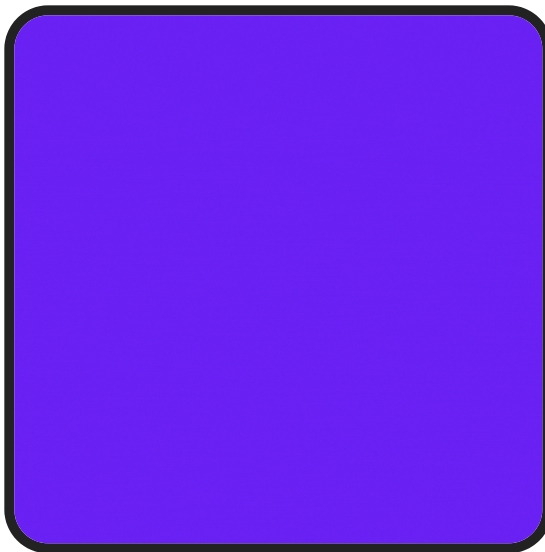
Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council – Affirming Forum Why becoming and Affirming Ministry is important – May 3, 2021 with Rev. Michiko Bown-Kai and Wilde Ferris

NOTE: Membership Fees to Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble will remain the same for 2021. Thanks so much for your continued support!

In an effort to embrace the full diversity of our nation, you will see Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble use new ways of sharing messages with each other. This is part of the commitment we make to take turns in listening to different voices and our Affirming commitment to each other.

This might be a helpful link for your congregation members, it is a [free translation program offered by Google](#). It is available for anyone on line to use and the program can translate in to many languages.

This eNewsletter is prepared with thankfulness on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit by Michele K. Petick the Communications & Marketing Coordinator to [Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble](#) with many thanks for content contributions from our Affirming Ministries across Canada, our community and

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