



# Affirm/S'affirmer

## UNITED/ENSEMBLE

### WHAT IS AFFIRM UNITED?

Affirm United/S'affirmer ensemble is an organization of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities within The United Church of Canada. We work to provide the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in the church and in society. We are a worshipping, pastoral, and prophetic community celebrating the biblical and theological liberation. We believe that all people are created in the image of God and are unconditionally loved by God.

### PURPOSE

The purposes of Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble are to provide

- educational opportunities and resources that will encourage acceptance of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities by members, congregations, and decision-making bodies of the United Church of Canada;
- a link to resources for support and pastoral care;
- a network of support through the Affirming Ministries, national working groups, and local groups; and
- encouragement for The United Church to act prophetically and pastorally, in support of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and transgender people, and their friends both within and beyond the church.

### AFFIRMING MINISTRIES PROGRAM

The Affirming Ministries Program is a network of United Church congregations and ministries that declare themselves to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Before declaring themselves to be Affirming, local congregations, colleges, church courts, and other ministries study issues of sexual orientation and identity; make a statement of welcome; and commit themselves to work for justice and inclusion within their congregation, the wider church, and their community. The program was launched in 1992. The United Church officially endorsed the program in 2000 and encouraged its ministries to participate.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who support the purposes of Affirm United/S'affirmer ensemble. There is a small annual membership fee. Members receive a subscription to our newsletter, *Consensus*.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about Affirm United/S'affirmer ensemble, visit our website for information on the Affirming Ministries Program; a list of affirming congregations and other Affirming ministries; suggestions for ways to support our ministry; names of Council members; and related links and resources.

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