



Consensus

Winter 2011

- CONNECTING AND INFORMING GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AND THEIR FRIENDS ACROSS THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA.
- WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE OF ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS AND GENDER IDENTITIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

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Affirm/S'affirmer
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

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Bullying and Beyond—Making it Better

Affirm United Conference and Annual General Meeting

Conférence et assemblée générale S'Affirmer ensemble

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
du 4 au 7 août 2011/August 4 to 7, 2011

Un accueil chaleureux vous attend à la conférence et assemblée générale Affirm United / S'affirmer ensemble, du 4 au 7 août 2011!

Une équipe enthousiaste, composée de représentants de six églises unies d'Edmonton, est déjà à l'œuvre afin de vous offrir un programme enrichissant d'ateliers, discussions, célébrations, et activités culturelles.

La conférence aura lieu à l'église Southminster-Steinhauer United : la première église de l'Alberta à recevoir la désignation « Communauté inclusive » en 2000. Ses espaces intérieurs et extérieurs, dont un labyrinthe, vous offriront l'endroit idéal pour vous ressourcer et pour tisser des liens avec des gens de partout au Canada.

Notez vos calendriers dès maintenant, et consultez le site web www.affirmunited.ca dans les mois à venir afin de vous renseigner davantage.

Au plaisir de vous voir à Edmonton en 2011!

By Colleen Oullette

It is with great pleasure to announce the location for the Affirm United/S'affirmer ensemble 2011 conference: Edmonton, Alberta.

Join us in August 2011 at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church which was deemed an inclusive community in 2000. With a newly renovated basement, the church will offer the ideal space for workshops, fellowship and worship.

So mark your calendars, and get ready for another thought provoking, and informative conference.

Stay tuned for more information regarding workshops and conference events.

See you in Edmonton in 2011!

By Glen Warren



Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

Edmonton Welcomes You in 2011!

Bienvenue à Edmonton en 2011!



Co-Chair Report

■ *Consensus* is the newsletter of Affirm United/S’Affirmer ensemble, an organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends within The United Church of Canada.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Affirm United/S’Affirmer ensemble. Your news stories, articles, and letters are always welcome.

Consensus reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or house style.

Contributors to this issue:

Glen Warren, Brian Mitchell-Walker, Nicole Hamel, Colleen Oullette, Marie-Andrée Babin, Marco Ste. Marie, Dominique Gauvreau

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**Affirm United
website**

www.affirmunited.ca

There is more and more “*informations en français*” on our web site.

Have a look.

Nicole and Brian, co-chairs of Affirm United/S’Affirmer Ensemble, have been very busy since the AGM at Tatamagouche last summer. We enjoyed renewing friendships and making new friendships at last summer’s gathering. We especially appreciated all those who volunteered to continue or begin new work on behalf of Affirm United/S’Affirmer Ensemble. This includes our new Editorial team for Consensus, our new email list coordinator, and the continuing work of Affirming Ministries, Archives, Transgender Task group, Next year’s Conference/AGM planning team and members of council.

The council continues to meet by Conference Call and follows up the many pieces of work through emails, phone calls and meetings.

We express great thanks to all that help make this work possible. We are thankful for the work of General Council staff who have followed up on making sure sexual orientation human rights will be included in the next printing of the New Canadian’s handbook. As well we are pleased with the Take Action work to support Bill C-389 (which you can read about in this issue of Consensus). We have three volunteers on behalf of Affirm United/S’Affirmer Ensemble working with a General Council consultation planning to follow up the work initiated by Alberta Northwest Conference. We continue to see great hope in our connections with the Intercultural work of The United Church of Canada.



Guest Speaker: Michael Blair

Our organization is dependent on the work of Volunteers. As co-chairs we work with the past co-chair (Wilson MacLennan) to prepare nominations for our ever changing council. We are always interested in learning of people who would like to share their gifts with us in this important work. For example both Nicole’s and Andrea’s (our treasurer) three year term will be finished at next year’s AGM. So if

you know of someone with skills to be our co-chair or our charitable organization’s treasurer, please pass these on to us.

Comme vous pourrez le constater, l’apport du bilinguisme sur notre site internet continue de progresser. Notre organisation est vivante grâce au travail, au temps consacré par un nombre de personnes qui dépassent largement les membres du conseil et les autres qui y gravitent. Notre engagement collectif à travers le pays contribue à la sensibilisation sur les réalités de minorités des orientations sexuelles et identités de genre.



Singer Kirsten Jones

Once again a big thank you for all of you who work for a better church and world in which to live. We are very aware that there are many people doing the work in and out of Affirming Ministries across our country. We encourage all who know these stories to share them with the readers of Consensus!

Facilitator Alcris Limongi



Facilitator Alcris Limongi

Nicole Hamel and Brian Mitchell-Walker
Co-chairs of Affirm United/S’Affirmer Ensemble



Affirming Ministries

Knox United Church in Brandon, Manitoba Paves the way for Affirming Churches

Knox United Church affirms that ALL are welcome! We now have it in policy as well as practice as recognized by Affirming United, a justice-oriented organization of the United Church of Canada. A service of celebration was held on October 31, 2010 at 10:30 am at Knox United Church, 18th and Victoria.

The Affirming Ministries Program of the United Church of Canada was launched in 1992 and provides resources to guide congregations to study issues of inclusion and welcoming of diverse peoples into the life and work of ministry and service. While one focus is on welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, the program also gives the congregation opportunities to study the issue of inclusion in general. The path to becoming an Affirming Ministry is a continuing journey of learning, study, discussion and prayer. Welcoming all involves an attitude of sensitivity and openness to the gifts and graces of each person in the body of Christ.

When the congregation decided about three years

We Want Your Opinion!

Trans people and significant others (partners, friends, family, or allies) are invited to participate in an online survey on Transgender & Gender Diversity in the United Church of Canada.

The survey will take 10-15 minutes.
All responders are guaranteed anonymity.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/ucctrans



Knox United Church in Brandon, Manitoba

ago to explore the possibility of becoming affirming, we were aware that we were the first church in Brandon to do so. A few members accepted the responsibility of leading the process of discussion and dialogue as well as surveying and gauging the feelings of the congregation. Several concrete actions were realized. For example, to address

accessibility issues, an elevator was installed, a ramp built, and handicapped parking expanded so that everyone could participate fully in church activities regardless of their mobility. To make worship more meaningful, large print resources and headphones are offered. The congregation has hosted the yearly Trans Day of Remembrance Service in conjunction with other community organizations. Special services have

included a PRIDE Service at the time of PRIDE Brandon, a Celebrating Diversity worship service and Reflections on the Truth & Reconciliation Process.

To reflect this new focus, our Mission Statement was updated to read: *As a faith community we are committed to sharing God's love and grace and to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, study, work, action and fellowship. As the people of Knox United Church we aim to provide a safe, nurturing environment where we accept and welcome all into the life and ministry of the Knox family: persons of any age, colour, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, social or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and freedom for all of God's people.*

La Parole Exprimée dans la Diversité

A Place for Us All: 2010 Conference AGM

Les chrétiens et chrétiennes inclusifs/les francophones de l'Église unie du Canada ne sont pas légion au Québec. Il nous apparaît donc normal de créer des liens avec des chrétiens GLBT de d'autres églises chrétiennes afin de développer un ministère qui réponde aux attentes de tous.

Voilà un immense défi dans un milieu majoritairement catholique où le discours d'exclusion s'est confirmé depuis quelques années dans les hautes instances de l'institution. Il faut se rendre toutefois à l'évidence que bien des membres de l'Église romaine rejettent la pensée officielle. Nous constatons aussi une ouverture chez quelques membres d'églises évangéliques de la région de Montréal. Bientôt, d'autres liens seront créés avec des non-chrétiens. Le groupe «Foi & Fierté» de l'Église unie Saint-Jean fera dans quelques semaines une visite dans une synagogue inclusive.

Peu importe la façon de faire Église ou de vivre la foi, ce ministère est là pour tous ceux et celles qui veulent en bénéficier, peu importe leur attache ecclésiale et en mettant de côté toute forme de prosélytisme. «Accueillez-vous les uns les autres comme Christ lui-même vous a accueillis, pour la gloire de Dieu» (Romains 15,7).



L to R: Yves Samson, Nicole Hamel, Marco Ste-Marie, Dominique Gauvreau

Voilà une parole de Paul très signifiante. Dans cet esprit lors de la réunion des paroisses inclusives francophones de l'Église unie du Québec avec nos collaborateurs de la paroisse anglicane St-James de Trois-Rivières, j'ai proposé la création d'un bulletin où des chrétiens/nes inclusifs/ves (Hétérosexuel/les et GLBT) écriront une méditation sur l'Évangile dominicale telle que suggérée par le lectionnaire œcuménique des églises. Des partenaires francophones d'Europe qui appartiennent à différents groupes chrétiens GLBT participeront aussi au bulletin; il sera publié sur le Web en format PDF téléchargeable à partir du groupe Facebook francophone de «S'affirmer Ensemble» et du blogue «Rencontre sous le Chêne de Mamré». Le premier numéro paraîtra pour la Semaine Sainte et le Temps Pascal 2011.

Information: dominique.parpaillet@gmail.com

Dominique Gauvreau
<http://www.rencontresouslechenedemamre.net/>
Animateur de «S'affirmer Ensemble» en français sur Facebook

From July 30 to August 2, the Annual Conference and AGM of Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble was held at Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. This year's theme of *A Place For Us All* hosted over 40 participants from across the country.

This year's conference featured speaker was Rev. Michael Blair. Michael is the Executive Minister, Intercultural & Diverse Communities in Ministry unit of the General Council (Now part of the Communities in Mission Unit) of The United Church of Canada. In his ministry Michael focuses on education, profiles ethno-cultural issues, and advocates for racial justice to nurture a better place of belonging for ethnic minority peoples and congregations in The United Church of Canada. Michael brought new life to several scripture passages. In asking us to retell the story of the Good Samaritan, he asked us what we knew of the traveller on the road and the assumptions we may have made about who this person was. Michael also pointed out that when Jesus says go and do likewise, we often assume that meant to act as the Samaritan who helped – where the point could be taken that to go and do likewise is to act as the traveller, being vulnerable and finding out who are neighbours are by those that join us in our vulnerability. As Michael shared his personal stories of discrimination, he challenged us to look beyond the single stories that brought us together and share our whole selves as we invite others to join us in our journey for justice for all.

Along with workshops on Rural Ministry, the “Bi” ways of life, Racial Justice, and Relationships, we had Halifax's own Julien Davis as a presenter. He discussed the challenges faced by those in the transgender community. His workshop was received with overwhelming praise for his honesty and humour. We also had a wonderful visit and mini-concert with singer Kirsten Jones. Kirsten is an amazing singer and member of Kingston Road United Church in Toronto (an Affirming Ministry). We dreamed of further connections we could have in hosting concerts across the country.

Our conference was filled with worship, song and fellowship made possible by the maritime planners and the great hospitality of the Tatamagouche Centre.

Brian Mitchell-Walker



Take Action

Support Bill C-389 to Protect Sexual Diversity

Write your Member of Parliament today and urge them to support Bill C-389: *An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (gender identity and gender expression)*.

October 2010

Background

Bill C-389 has been developed in consultation with transgender, transsexual, and gender variance rights groups and proposed by NDP MP Bill Siksay. It calls on Parliament to immediately implement legislation to update the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination. The Bill also seeks to include gender identity and gender expression in the Criminal Code of Canada in the hate crime and sentencing provisions.

Gender—masculine and feminine—refers to ways in which people act, interact, or feel about themselves. While aspects of biological sex are the same across different cultures, aspects of gender may not be. The World Health Organization defines gender as referring to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women (such as behaviour and appearance).

Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity (sense of themselves as male or female) or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Many transgender people live part-time or full-time as members of the gender with which they identify.

In November 2009 the General Council Executive approved the following motion:

God has brought forth human beings as creatures who are male, female, and sometimes dramatically or subtly a complex mix of male and female in their bodies. Human cultures have created a broad diversity of roles for men and women, and have sometimes created roles for people named as neither man nor woman often revered and respected roles. Broadly speaking, anyone whose identity, appearance, or behaviour falls outside of conventional gender norms can be described as transgender. However, not everyone whose appearance or behaviour is gender-atypical will identify as a transgender person.

There are numerous biblical affirmations of the goodness of creation and the love of God for all people, including Genesis 1, Psalm 139, John 1: 1–5, Acts 10: 34–43, Galatians 3:27–28. The gospel reminds us that we are different but not unequal. The apostle Paul, who was dealing with pluralism and diversities, writes to the Galatians about a new identity: "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Transgender people are currently offering valuable ministry within the United Church of Canada, both as lay people and as clergy. Responses to numerous programs have called for the transformation of gender roles that are oppressive for men or women, or otherwise not fully reflective of Christian values.

As a church we affirm and are committed to the full participation and ministries of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two spirit, and queer (GLBTTQ) people within our courts.


It is a reality that transgender, transsexual, and gender-diverse [variant] people suffer extremely high rates of discrimination and violence. But, they're not yet explicitly protected from discrimination anywhere in Canada except the Northwest Territories. Bill C-389 passed without amendments on November 2nd, at the Justice and Human Rights Committee. The bill now goes back to the House of Commons for debate and a vote at report stage and third reading. Depending on the House calendar this next step could come in December.

Write, e-mail, phone or fax your MP to support C-389 today!



Take Action

Take Action:

Write, e-mail, phone or fax your MP to support C-389 today! The [House of Commons](#)  * website also has a complete list of MPs' fax and phone numbers.

[Contact your MP](#)

[Print a letter to send to your MP](#)

[Print postcards for your group to distribute](#)

[Print a petition to circulate](#), making sure the request is on each page of the petition.

Find out how you can support equal rights for trans people today!

[Read more about Trans/Gender Diversity](#)

[Read the text of the bill](#)

[Find out more about the bill](#)

Follow the bill on [openparliament.ca](#) (includes an RSS feed!)

[Join the Facebook group](#)

For more information you can contact the bill's sponsor, Bill Siksay:

Bill Siksay, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6 (no need for a stamp)

Telephone: (613) 996-5597

Fax: (613) 992-5501

E-mail: Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca

Website: billsiksay.ca

Please send copies of your letters to:

[Barbara Lloyd](#)

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3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 300

Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

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The Spirit is Movin'

On Nov. 13, 50 people from 12 ministries, including one presbytery and Bay of Quinte Conference itself, gathered at St Andrews UC Peterborough to share their vision, approaches, successes, strategies to reduce obstacles, and resources as they journey toward becoming Affirming.

Evaluations showed that great value was found in the sharing of different experiences to date, both hopeful and challenging, and knowing there is mutual support available for the asking. Linda Hutchinson brought books from the Kingston Presbytery Resource Centre and reported sales of well over \$600, an indication of the passion and determination present in the room.

Permission was given to utilize excerpts from the draft of the wonderful new Affirming Ministries Guide by Alyson Huntly. It is hoped its final version will soon be on the Affirm United website.

This was the fourth in a series of workshops created and facilitated by the Conference wide members of the "10 by '10" Action Group of the MOA (Mission , Outreach and Advocacy) Permanent Committee of the Bay of Quinte Conference. Formed in Oct 2007 and inspired by the Alberta Northwest initi-

ative of "8 by 2008", the goal was to have 10 ministries at least in the Affirming process by Dec 31, 2010, a goal it has achieved.

This group has also educated, inspired and supported congregations and courts of the Conference with resources, phone calls, emails, presentations, participation on panels and consistent visibility at Conference Annual meetings. It is our intention to continue to do so to help ensure successful outcomes, with the assistance of Anne Hebb and Sheila Fraeser, co-chairs of the national Affirming Ministries program,

For the past 10 years, Bay of Quinte Conference has only had one Affirming Ministry - Sydenham St UC in Kingston. With the buzz created by all the activity and raised profile enjoyed across the Conference, 10 x '10 is now being approached for information and guidance from a growing number of congregations and presbyteries.

THE SPIRIT IS MOVIN' !!

Sowe extend the challenge to all of you in Conferences across the country to follow the Alberta Northwest and Bay of Quinte models, to move with momentum beyond the current 72 Affirming ministries.

The 10 by '10 Action Group
Bay of Quinte Conference



Linda Hutchinson

International Day Against Homophobia by Marco Ste. Marie

May 17, 2011 will mark *The International Day Against Homophobia*. At **United Affirm**, we want to honour this important day. We are making a special request for the entire affirming congregations, and their community allies to organize a special worship for this occasion that will take place on May 17, 2011.

This is an opportunity for all affirm congregations of the United Church of Canada to renew their commitment to the LGBT community, and to make anew the welcoming message of the Gospel. **(Matt 5:14-16)** Together, let us say "Yes" to God, and let us be the light of the world.

We encourage you to speak to your church session, community partners, family, and friends in preparation of this special day for your congregation.

Let us reaffirm to all who are oppressed, "You are not alone".

An Order of Worship, and a special liturgy will be proposed in the coming months as well as, other announcements and details.

marcostemarie@hotmail.com

Le 17 mai prochain sera la journée mondiale contre l'homophobie. Nous les gens de *S'Affirmer Ensemble* voulons souligner cette journée importante en demandant à toutes les paroisses inclusives ainsi que leurs partenaires et ami-es de participer à un culte spécial pour cette circonstance qui aura lieu le 17 mai 2011.

Pour cette occasion nous vous proposons de renouveler votre engagement envers la communauté LGBT et de faire retentir le message d'inclusivité de l'évangile à travers vos communautés avec un culte s'inscrivant dans la foulée de la journée mondiale contre l'homophobie. Le 22 mai prochain sera une opportunité pour toutes les paroisses inclusives de L'Église Unie du Canada de réaffirmer leur engagement face à leur inclusivité et d'inviter leurs partenaires œcuméniques et sociaux à célébrer avec eux.

Parlez-en à vos conseils de paroisse, partenaires œcuméniques et interreligieux ainsi qu'à vos amis. Commencer dès maintenant à préparer cette journée spéciale.

C'est un événement d'union et d'affirmation qu'il ne faut pas manquer!

marcostemarie@hotmail.com



What now? Et maintenant?

What now? That's what I hear from some of the affirming congregations I have talked with. And that seems to be the next big step. Many churches across Canada have taken that great first step; they've become an affirming church. Actively changing their mandate to include people regardless of sexual orientation, economic circumstance, ethnicity, gender, and/or ability. They've opened their doors proclaiming, "Welcome!"

So, now they seem to be a bit stymied. Are they truly affirming? Have they made all areas accessible to someone with mobility issues? Have they changed policies to inclusive language? Or even something as simple as announcing a recent same gender marriage to the congregation. These things make it easier for a congregation to recognize the many complexities of being affirming.

I know it's a hard, and possible long process. There will be some resistance and some changes will be easier to implement than others. The main issue is that you've made the first step and that leads to great changes to come.

Bravo!

Glen Warren

Et maintenant ? Je reçois des nouvelles de certaines congrégations inclusives avec lesquelles j'ai parlé. Et cela semble avoir été le grand pas. Beaucoup d'églises à travers le Canada ont fait ce premier pas; elles sont devenues une église inclusive; activement, en modifiant leur perception et en incluant les gens sans tenir compte de l'orientation sexuelle, les conditions économiques, ethnicité ou le genre, elles ont ouvert leurs portes en déclarant: "Bienvenue !"

Maintenant elles semblent être un peu contrariées. Sont-elles vraiment inclusives ? Ont-elles rendu toutes les régions accessibles à tous et toutes avec les programmes de mobilité ? Ont-elles changé des politiques à la langue ? Ou même quelque chose d'aussi simple que l'annonce d'un récent mariage de genre dans la congrégation ? Ces choses la rendent plus facile pour une communauté de reconnaître les nombreuses complexités d'être .

Je sais que c'est un long processus dur et possible. Il y aura un peu de résistance et quelques changements seront plus faciles à faire que d'autres. Le principale changement, c'est que vous avez fait le premier pas et cela cause de grands changements pour l'avenir.

Bravo!

Glen Warren

Affirm United Membership

We'd like to hear from you Communiquez avec nous !

Name/Nom _____

Address/Adresse _____

Phone/Téléphone _____

Email/ Courriel _____
(I do not want to be on your email news list. S'il vous plaît me retirer de votre liste de diffusion.)

Congregation/ Paroisse _____



- This is a new membership. **Nouvel abonnement.** This is a renewal. **Réabonnement.**
- As a new member, I am signing here to indicate I support the goals of Affirm United
En tant que nouveau membre, je signe pour indiquer que je soutiens les objectifs/raisons d'être de S'affirmer Ensemble:
- Enclosed is my tax-deductible individual/household membership fee of \$40 (and a donation of \$_____).
Ci-joint une cotisation déductible d'impôt au montant de 40 \$ pour adhérer comme individu ou famille (et un don de _____ \$).
- I cannot afford the membership fee right now, but I want to be a member. Please put me on your list for the year.
Je ne peux pas payer la cotisation d'adhésion présentement, mais je veux être membre. S'il vous plaît me mettre sur votre liste pour l'année.
- I do not want to join just now. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$_____)
Je ne suis pas prêt-e à devenir membre tout de suite. Mais je désire faire un don déductible d'impôt de _____ \$.
- Please contact me. I wish to donate to Affirm United via the United Church's PAR program of preauthorized monthly remittances.
Veuillez communiquer avec moi. Je désire faire mes dons à S'affirmer Ensemble par le programme des contributions pré-autorisées de l'Église Unie.
- Enclosed is our \$100 fee for an institutional membership (e.g., congregation, presbytery, school).
Ci-joint notre paiement de 100 \$ pour une adhésion institutionnelle pour l'année (par exemple, congrégation, consistoire, école) .
- I would like information about the Affirming Ministries Program and Affirming ministries in my area.
J'aimerais recevoir des renseignements sur le réseau "Communautés inclusives" et la liste de celles de ma région.

NOTE: Affirm United's membership information is kept strictly confidential. It will not be shared with any other organizations or individuals.

NOTE : Les renseignements personnels sur les membres de S'affirmer Ensemble sont strictement confidentiels. Ils ne seront divulgués à aucune autre personne ou organisation.

Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble is a federally registered charity. Our business number is 87449 1772 RR0001.
S'affirmer Ensemble est une œuvre de charité enregistrée au fédéral. Notre numéro d'entreprise est : 87449 1772 RR0001.

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Affirming Ministries

Des collaborations œcuméniques se développent au Québec

Les co-animateurs du groupe chrétien *Foi et fierté* St-Jean, Mtl) et les co-animatrices du groupe inter spirituel *Spiritualité Entre-nous* (St-Pierre, Qc) s'étaient rencontrés d'abord pour planifier une retraite œcuménique et finalement ils ont plutôt décidé de s'intégrer à des événements liés à la Fierté afin de créer des liens et de favoriser des collaborations. Pendant ce temps en Europe, une activité de ressourcement annuel rassemble des personnes gaies, lesbiennes, bisexuels-les et transgenres de diverses confessions chrétiennes.

Journées communautaires : Montréal et Québec



Nicole Hamel (St-Pierre) et Stéphane Gaudet (St-Jean)

Les deux paroisses francophones du réseau *Communautés inclusives* de l'Église Unie du Canada au Québec ont affiché leur présence à des journées communautaires qui avaient pignon sur rue pendant les fêtes de la Fierté 2010 à Montréal et lors de la Fête Arc-en ciel à Québec. Parmi la documentation offerte, figurait la nouvelle brochure bilingue de *S'affirmer ensemble/Affirm United* et des feuillets d'information sur les réalités des orientations sexuelles et identités de genre minoritaires que l'on peut imprimer à partir du site internet.

Repas communautaire et œcuménique au parc Lafontaine

Le groupe *Foi et Fierté* (St-Jean) a réuni des gens de Québec avec des personnes de son groupe, autant catholiques et sympathisants de l'Église Unie. Notons également les quelques personnes de la confession évangélique, soucieux d'un accueil plus inclusif dans leur confession chrétienne qui ont aussi répondu à l'invitation.

Défilé Fierté Montréal

Grâce au Réseau des croyants-es pour l'inclusivité (RÉCI), le groupe *Believe* de St-James United Church invitait les gens pour marcher avec eux lors du Défilé de la Fierté. Les gens de *Believe*

offraient des « Câlines gratuits/ Free Hugs ». C'était très touchant de voir les spectateurs se précipiter vers eux et elles. Plusieurs personnes ont fait des gestes d'approbation en voyant la bannière de l'Église Unie. La revue électronique *Sentiers de foi*, Vol 6, no 2 a publié un article plus détaillé sur ces événements.

Le 31 octobre dernier, des représentant-e-s de la composante francophone du groupe *S'affirmer ensemble* se sont rencontrés, cette fois à Trois-Rivières. Ils ont été accueillis par le Révérend Yves Samson, diacre de la paroisse anglicane St James de Trois-Rivières. « Je suis personnellement convaincu que toute forme d'exclusivisme est purement antichrétien et que, conséquemment, notre Église doit être militante d'un accueil inconditionnel. Au fil des années, l'Église anglicane du Québec et du Canada a fait des pas significatifs à l'égard de l'accueil et de la présence des personnes homosexuelles dans ses rangs. Je crois que nous avons tout à gagner à établir entre nous un réseautage pour la mise en commun de ressources et de projets et ce, dans un esprit œcuménique. Voilà l'une des raisons pour laquelle, en tant que diacre anglican, je suis heureux d'apporter ma contribution à ce travail incessant dans le but d'atteindre la pleine inclusion des personnes de toutes orientations sexuelles et identités sexuelles autant dans l'Église que dans la société dans son ensemble », a conclu le Révérend Yves Samson.

Autres nouvelles :

Depuis le printemps dernier, notre association paie de la publicité dans la revue francophone de l'Église Unie du Canada : *Aujourd'hui Credo*. Dans le numéro d'oct.-nov. vous trouverez deux pages des activités de l'été dernier, incluant la publicité elle-même de *S'affirmer ensemble/Affirm United*

La revue électronique *Sentiers de foi*, Vol 6, no 2 a publié un article sur ces événements de l'été dernier, tout le numéro parle de l'Église Unie par le biais de *Caféchange* (Wondercafé en anglais).

De plus, *Caféchange* a un nouveau blogue *S'affirmer ensemble* dont je suis l'animatrice.

Vos suggestions et commentaires sont les bienvenus.

Nicole Hamel, contact francophone

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