

Affirming Ministry Proposal

<https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>

That the following motions will be made at a congregational meeting:

Having lived out a welcome for people of all sexual orientations for more than a decade and having openly discerned over the last year, THAT St. David's United Church become an Affirming Ministry as described by Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble (AUSE), by:

1. *confirming the current St. David's marriage policy (approved in 2006) that allows for couples of all gender identities to be married in the church and by the congregation's minister.*
2. *approving this Affirming Statement:*
St. David's United Church affirms that it will do all it can to ensure that people of all gender identities and sexual orientations will find an honest welcome within its community of faith and that they can participate in all aspects of church life, as they desire and are able.
3. *encouraging all people involved with St. David's United Church to live out the above Affirming Statement.*
4. *paying an annual institutional membership fee to AUSE (~\$100).*
5. *continuing to:*
 - a. *display "rainbow" flags on all church entrances.*
 - b. *use a full size rainbow flag by west entrance from time to time (especially during Pride Month): to be seen at a distance.*
 - c. *promote the south washroom as an accessible, non-gender specific washroom.*
 - d. *share that couples of all gender identities can ask the church to participate in their weddings and the baptism of their children.*
 - e. *advocate for equal treatment and opportunity for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, specifically within the Leduc-Beaumont region.*
 - f. *promote "pride" events happening around Leduc, Beaumont, and Edmonton areas.*
 - g. *share information with and from the Edmonton Area Affirming Ministries network.*
 - h. *ensure that public promotions of the church (eg. advertisements, website, social media, brochures, posters, signs, etc.) indicate a welcome and inclusion of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, perhaps including the Affirming Ministries logo.*
6. *including "Affirming Ministry" as part of the Inreach-Outreach Committee mandate.*



****AUSE strongly advises that this motion receive at least 75% approval****

THAT St. David's United Church encourage its Council, committees, groups and staff to consider taking future "affirming" actions that may include:

1. *displaying the church's mission and affirming statements in ways that are easy to find: on bulletin boards, walls.*
2. *proposing an annual budget for a congregational representative to attend the Annual Gathering of AUSE (~\$200 + travel, accommodation)*
3. *adding a sign by north washrooms with words like "use the washroom that conforms to your gender identity" - make it clear that no one is to police who uses what washroom.*
4. *being open to creating a non-gendered adult social/service group, perhaps an eventual combination of current gendered adult groups.*
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.