

Why Do This?

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights has this quote on its wall. “**All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.**” We are inspired by this and want for it to be the same in our life together at Avondale United Church



Vision Statement

We are a welcoming Christian community respecting inclusivity, diversity, and the earth. We the people of Avondale United Church will continue our commitment to creating a community where people of all ages, differing abilities, ethnic backgrounds, physical or mental health, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic backgrounds are treated equitably and encouraged to participate in all aspects of the life and work of the ministry. We believe in God and Jesus of Nazareth who teaches us to respect, care for, love and forgive one another as we continue to ponder our faith. We celebrate richness that diversity brings even if it challenges us.



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What is An Affirming Church?

God's love extends widely and is offered to all people throughout the world. This love is made known in the ministry of Jesus where hospitality is revealed. It is a particular welcome to those who have been rejected, marginalized and pushed aside.

An Affirming Church, inspired by this ministry, seeks to follow this example by an intentional commitment of hospitality and welcome. With a particular focus on including people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, this community of faith seeks to offer a tangible witness to God's ongoing work of hospitality.

Why Are We Doing This Now?

For several years prior to amalgamation both congregations held an interest in being more intentional about who was made welcome. Both congregations held as a priority that a focus on being more welcoming was a priority. In one case, that meant the beginning of a process toward becoming an Affirming Church.

As Avondale United Church, one of the signs of moving forward is to put a particular energy toward making sure all people feel welcome.

In the past, not everyone has sensed that welcome. Today and in the future, it is hoped that a new reality might be born in our life together; a reality that extends an invitation that each person may find a home at Avondale United Church. We hope that this community of faith may be a place of belonging.

What is Affirm United?



Affirm United is a network of over 130 Affirming ministries in the United Church of Canada. There are hundreds of individual members and around 80 ministries in the Affirming process.

The Affirming Ministries Program is a network of United Church ministries that publicly declare themselves to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Who is this For?

This is for all of us and for each of us. This ministry reminds us of God's welcome and actively invites us to participate in God's mission.

Part of our faith is to be a witness to others. Being an Affirming Congregation is a public declaration of our commitment to inclusion. It tells the community of Stratford, Perth County, and the wider community of the United Church that we are a safe place to belong.

Our desire is to be people who are justice oriented, compassionate, work toward right relationship, equality and healing for others.