

March 12, 2013

VISION STATEMENT

Updated revised Vision Statement showing input from Presbyters

We, the members of the Winnipeg Presbytery in the United Church of Canada, declare our commitment to be an affirming and inclusive court of the United Church of Canada.

We are called to a ministry of Christian service to the congregations, community ministries and other that includes everyone as we continue to work to remove all barriers that marginalize and exclude, such as those based on age, gender,  sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, or social standing.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we are called to offer an open door, an open heart, an open mind and an open hand as we continue to work for justice, dignity, and inclusion of all in the church community and in society.

Winnipeg Presbytery Affirming Task Group Action Plan

1. Form an ongoing Affirming Committee to find ways to live out its Vision Statement and to provide a link with other Affirming Ministries to support each other's work.
2. Support members to attend an Intercultural Conference and plan on how they will share information learned.
3. Connect with a community group dealing with anti-poverty issues.
4. Continue to make public that we are an Affirming Ministry on our website, in our newsletter, and in our bulletins.
5. Have visible signs that we welcome LGBT people on our signboards.
6. Have a study group or workshop annually to explore some aspect of ministry with marginalized people.
7. Support 2 members to attend either an Affirming Ministry Conference or the Annual Affirm United AGM
8. Add a suitable symbol i.e. rainbow to the Presbytery letterhead, website and office and publicize.
9. Encourage churches to become affirming ministries.
10. Participate in GAY Pride Day activities including the parade.
11. Provide Worship liturgy for all congregations to use on International Day against Homophobia or the closest Sunday to May 17.
12. Have a regular workday to explore some aspect of ministry with marginalized people.
13. Annual audit process? How are we doing?
14. Make rainbow stickers available and encourage them to post them in prominent places. Get rainbow candles.
15. Create a space that is welcoming and a gathering place for groups.