

## St. Mary's Road United Church's Affirming Ministry Vision Statement

- At St. Mary's Road United Church we are committed through our mission statement to welcome radically, worship totally, hope stubbornly, love wastefully, and live intentionally.
- We believe in a church community of safety, acceptance, inclusiveness, and openness. Everyone is a beloved child of God. We celebrate the diversity that God has created, that everyone is blessed with gifts, and purpose, and dignity.
- A faith journey is open to people of every age, sex, race, family status, cultural and economic background, mental or physical ability, gender, and sexual identity.
- We are open to, and affirming of, heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, questioning, and queer persons and their families, with respect to full participation in the church – membership, life passages, life and work, mission, and leadership including ministry.
- We will work constantly to be a safe, inclusive, and affirming church.
- We will work constantly for healing, justice, dignity, and inclusiveness for all in our community and society.

## SMRUC Affirming Action Plan

- The Affirm group will continue to meet to plan education and outreach
- Take part in the Pride Winnipeg Festival
- Maintain and grow our book and video lending library
- Make it known through the Link, Take Note, website, and outdoor signage, that we are an Affirming Ministry.
- Support the Rainbow Harmony Project through volunteering at least once a year
- Explore sending members to the Affirm United AGM or an Affirming Ministry Conference
- Observe international Day Against Homophobia – May 17
- Continue to explore other justice issues such as racism
- Explore ways to support the needs of LGBT seniors in our area, particularly in the area of housing and spiritual care
- Celebrate the anniversary of our church becoming an Affirming Ministry
- Ministers will provide pastoral care to those individuals who are struggling with their sexual orientation and gender identity, and to those individuals having trouble adjusting to SMRUC having become an Affirming Ministry