



How did Leaside United Church get to this point?



- 1988 United Church General Council announces “That all people, regardless of sexual orientation, are declared welcome as full members and are eligible to be considered for ordained ministry.”
- Leaside United church decided to uphold this decision. Some members left.
- Leaside United began the long journey of healing and learning.
- 2003 Rev. Judith Evenden (Eleanor) help to open up the dialogue about the Ontario Courts decision to recognize same sex marriage.
- 2007 LUC makes changes to the wedding/ marriage policy to ensure it is “intentionally” welcoming to all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- October 2012 the congregation of LUC voted unanimously to fulfil the requirements to become a member of the national program Affirm United.
- April 24, 2016 Leaside United Church celebrates their membership into Affirm United.



Buttons created by LUC Children and Youth for
Affirming Celebration, April 24, 2016.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? HERE ARE SOME HANDY RESOURCE LINKS.

Affirm United

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

PFLAG

<http://www.torontopflag.org/>

(Parents, families, friends & allies
of Toronto's LGBTQ* community)

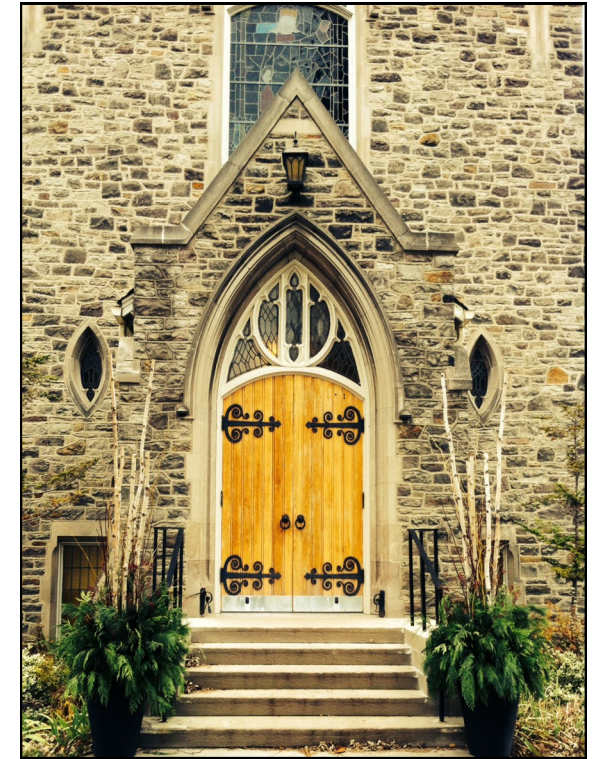
Egale

<http://egale.ca/>

Egale Canada Human Rights Trust is Canada's
only national charity promoting lesbian, gay,
bisexual, and trans (LGBTQ) human rights
through research, education and community
engagement.

United Church of Canada: Gender and Orientation

<http://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/gender-and-orientation>



April 24, 2016

**Leaside United Church
joins the
AFFIRM UNITED
Family!**



What is Affirm United?



Affirm United is a justice-oriented organization of people in The United Church of Canada. Affirm United works for the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in The United Church of Canada and in society. April 24, 2016, Leaside United Church becomes one of the nearly 200 members of Affirm United.

What does it mean to be Affirming?



To be Affirming is to recognize that all of us are worthy of being ministered to with respect to who we are, seen in light of the teachings of Jesus. Social constructs of any kind may blind us to the individuality of another person, preventing us from seeing each other as Jesus taught us to.

How does a church 'DO' Affirming?



When a congregation is designated as Affirming, it is making a public statement to all who arrive there that it has taken on a period of reflection regarding barriers to participation and belonging. This can be an important reassurance to someone who is unsure of whether a particular church is a place in which they can feel safe to be themselves, whether they will be required to hide a minority sexual orientation or gender identity. In the past, some Churches have actively sought to exclude LGBTQ individuals and families. The Affirming process seeks to address the harm done by that active exclusion.