



# Trinitopics & Church Announcements

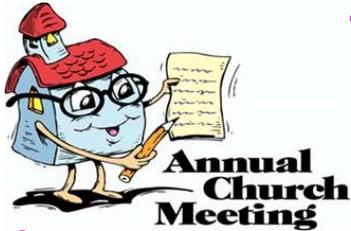


To Grow in Faith, Fellowship & Service Through Christ Jesus  
# 2 ~ Thursday, January 21st, 2021

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## Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 21st, 2021

1:30PM via Zoom and Phone

(details will be shared closer to the event)

A warm welcome to all.

Reflect and celebrate our 2010 blessings.

Plan and collaborate to intentionally live our mission in 2021.

## Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble

Affirm United is a justice-seeking organization of people in The United Church of Canada, although its work often reaches outside of the denomination. Membership is open to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities who support our work. Affirm United is a worshipping, pastoral, and prophetic community celebrating God's call to liberation. It declares that all people are created in the image of God and are unconditionally loved by God. The organization strives for full participation and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the church and in society.

*(Excerpt: Open Hearts, page 6)*

Visit the following links for further information:

- \* Affirm United home page: <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>
  - \* Frequently asked questions: <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/frequently-asked-questions-about-affirm-united-saffirmer-ensemble/>
- Open Hearts Resource:
- \* [https://affirmunited.ause.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/Open-Hearts-AUSE\\_Final\\_May192020.pdf](https://affirmunited.ause.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/Open-Hearts-AUSE_Final_May192020.pdf)



For information or questions about efforts at Trinity to become an Affirming Ministry, please contact:

- \* Reverend Neufeld
- \* Al Friesen
- \* Jason Splett
- \* Member of Equity & Diversity Committee

**Whatever your perspective, we invite you to join the conversation.**

Do the right thing ...It will gratify some people and astonish the rest ... Mark Twain  
Things done well and with a care, exempt themselves from fear ... William Shakespeare

# Why Become an Affirming Ministry?

*(Excerpts from "Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries in the United Church of Canada", page 1, 11 – 14)*

## What is an Affirming Ministry?

Affirming Ministries are communities of faith within the United Church that publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Although Affirming Ministries make an explicit statement about issues of sexuality and gender, their commitment to justice is far broader. They continually grow and change as they seek to live more fully into God's way of welcome, love, and justice for all.

Affirming Ministries work in many ways toward the healing and wholeness of creation:

- challenging bias and discrimination based on appearance, ability, culture, class, or age,
- working to end racism,
- promoting economic justice,
- increasing accessibility,
- caring for the planet.

Affirming Ministries also work for justice and inclusion for all people. These ministries declare, in words and actions, that God loves and celebrates all people. And they call upon the rest of the church and society to do the same.

Through a process of discernment and reflection, Affirming Ministries discover what it means for them to be inclusive and justice-seeking. They prepare a statement of faith and vision that sets out their ongoing commitment to work for justice on issues of gender diversity and sexual orientation within their ministry, the wider church and community.

## We're Already Welcoming, So Why Become Affirming?

Some ministries already have many signs of inclusion. They may feel they include everyone and wonder why they would need to specifically mention sexual orientation or gender identity. When the question of becoming an Affirming Ministry arises, people may feel that they are already welcoming so there is no reason to become Affirming.

## Offering More than Just a Welcome

Being an Affirming Ministry is not merely about welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Words like welcoming or inclusion suggest those on the inside have the power to choose to accept

those on the outside. This makes it sound like an act of charity to welcome those who are different. However, it is not our place to welcome anyone because church is not a private club and we are not the gatekeepers. As soon as one new person comes through the doors, the community becomes a new community.

Affirming Ministries acknowledge that God's love is wider and more encompassing than they can imagine, let alone live out, and they commit themselves to sharing that news with others who may have heard a quite different message about what it means to be church. Because voices of condemnation, exclusion, and hatred are loud and persistent within the church and in society, Affirming Ministries make a public statement about who they are and what they believe.

## Celebrating God's Gift of Diversity

Ministries that choose to become Affirming discover that embracing difference brings blessing and joy to their community. As they declare an explicit openness to otherness, they discover the grace of encountering the depth and breadth of human diversity. A community that is able to celebrate its diversity is better equipped to solve problems in a collaborative way. It is more able to learn and benefit from the varied experiences and talents of its members. And it is enriched by a great variety of different knowledge, stories, and ways of seeing the world.

## Justice, Compassion and Love for All

Affirming Ministries are not gay churches or single-issue communities. They work on a variety of justice issues. They know that the work of healing and justice-making, of being the church, is an ongoing part of who they are, whether they strive to combat racism or work to make their buildings wheelchair-accessible, as they attend anti-poverty marches or seek to live out the United Church's apology on residential schools; when they honour children and provide space for addiction support groups or strive towards environmental justice.

## Whatever your perspective . . .

we invite you to join the conversation.



## Worship News:

Rev Doug and the Worship Committee are seeking your participation in our virtual worship services this year. We would like to have families or couples, as representatives of the congregation, do the responsive sections of the Call to Worship. You would connect with Rev Doug via Zoom to record the Call to Worship. If you are not familiar with Zoom format, Doug will provide you with the details as to how this will work. He would send you the reading in advance and then contact you to set a time to record which would only take a few minutes.

If you are single, please don't feel left out; we are always looking for scripture readers. Let us know if you're interested.

Help us share your talents with our Trinity family. It would be appreciated if you could let Rev. Doug or myself know ASAP and a schedule will be developed for Doug. If you have questions, please contact me at [silviusa@mymts.net](mailto:silviusa@mymts.net) or (204) 726-4169.

We look forward to your anticipated response.

Thank you,  
Alan Silvius



### THE SEED- by G.E.Sawyer 1/15/2013

Have you ever thought about where and how things started? When you look at a blade of grass, its original came from a seed that was planted accidentally or intently by the wind, or a bird or a human. When we eat a slice of bread, the flour used to make the bread came from a seed.

When we sink our teeth into a delicious piece of fruit, the fruit originally came from a seed; the tree that grows the fruit also came from a seed.

We then sit down to a wonderful meal and start to look at all the great food before us; it all came from a seed

Similarly, when we look at all the people sitting around the table, our mum, dad, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins as well as friends, we all came from very small beginnings.

Now what do you think of a tiny seed?

If there were no seeds where would we be, nothing would exist. Thank God, the great Creator, who sowed the first seeds of creation. He did a marvellous job of creating us and our universe. We all should take care of ourselves and the world to preserve it for future generations.



From  
*Pat's Writer's  
Group*

An entry written  
by Glenn Sawyer.  
Alison had this for  
her page last  
newsletter, but it  
got missed!

However  
Better late than  
*Never!!*

*If 2020 was a  
math word-  
problem:*

If you're going  
down a river at 2  
MPH and your  
canoe loses a  
wheel, how much  
pancake mix  
would you need  
to re-shingle your  
roof?!???





Growing up, Deb Anderson-Pratt would never have imagined that she would become a minister. A Cree/Saulteaux residential school survivor, Deb disliked the church for many years.

“I grew up living on the George Gordon First Nation reserve. Religious leaders visited us all the time to try to convert us. One of them told my great-grandmother, MaryJane Anderson, that we were all going to hell because of the Native teachings she was giving us.”

Deb has vivid memories of the day a group of ministers were at her great-grandmother’s home for a meal. An argument broke out about whose theology she should pass along to Deb and the other children: “We used to have a tent down the hill from our house. My grandmother told them to go to the tent and discuss whose teaching was right, and if they could agree, she would teach her children that. Needless to say, no one came back.”

Deb’s great-grandmother struggled to maintain her belief in both the traditional Indigenous teachings and the biblical ones, turmoil that was instilled in her at residential school. “She was taken to residential school when she was just four and was forbidden to mention, much less live out, traditional teachings. She shared them with me kind of in secret. She had to be subtle about it because if she got caught, she could go to jail,” says Deb.

How did Deb become a minister? In the late 1980s she took a job as a secretary in a Lutheran church, and the minister encouraged her to answer God’s call. She began studying but at that point wasn’t ready to become a minister. Still, she continued to be involved in the United Church’s All Native Circle Conference and eventually, in 2012, began to feel the Spirit pull her toward ministry again.

The exact time she responded to God’s call is etched in Deb’s heart. It was September 14, 2012. Deb had quit her job to look after her ill sister, whose bed she was changing. “I sat down and I said, ‘Sister, I have this strong call. God is calling me to train [for ministry] again.’ My sister had tears in her eyes and said, ‘I think you need to answer the call.’” Deb contacted the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre to re-enroll.

The following October, Deb’s sister died. “I found I wasn’t angry at God for taking her. I knew God had used her for a channel to get me where I needed to be,” she says.

In fall 2020, Deb was one of six Indigenous ministers ordained or commissioned in the United Church. “I cried when I was ordained. It took eight years to get where God had been calling me.”

Since 2016, Deb has worked for the Regina Native Outreach Ministry. Today, she is working hard to help purchase a building. “Our people will not go to a mainstream church. We have very many lost people in the community, especially in the core area, and we want a place where they can come and feel safe. That’s our dream.”

Your Mission & Service gifts help train ministry leaders whose work transforms their community.

*Your generosity through Mission & Service supports the Sandy-Saulteaux Centre in Manitoba, where both Indigenous and Christian spiritual beliefs are respected, shared, and understood—where Indigenous leaders like Deb answer God’s call to a ministry of healing and hope.*

*Thank you.*



**A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.**

**Phyllis Diller**

**Q: Why didn’t the quarter roll down the dill with the nickel?**

**A: Because it had more cents**

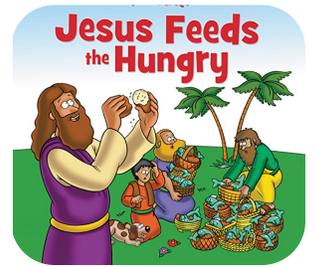
**Coronacoaster-noun:  
the ups and downs of a pandemic.**

**A vote is not a valentine, you aren’t confessing your love for the candidate. It’s a chess move for the world you want to live in.**



# Remember When

## Feeding Families January 2020



This past January friends from Trinity, Knox and Central gathered to pack hundreds of bulk food packages for Samaritan House hampers.

Here is a look back at this amazing event. Thanks from the Outreach committee to all who were able to come and help out. The families receiving the supplies greatly appreciated our efforts.



Feeding Families  
Rice - 86  
Flour - 554  
Sugar - 101



### TRINITY 55 PLUS GROUP

Thank you all for all your continuing donations and for supporting ..Assistive Technology for Children with DisAbilities.... We are well on our way to reaching our goal..

As winter continues, our Mission for Mittens continues.. Mittens for kindergarten age to the older children in Middle School.. and always for the Homeless will be appreciated....

They can be dropped off at 26 Driftwood Crescent or we will pick up... call Ruth or Glenn prior 204 728 4683 and we will put a container on the step for safe drop off. Looking forward to when we we can meet again.

“ Trinity 55 Plus Striving to Make a Difference a Little at a Time”



This picture was just too cute not to share. There have been a couple of the girls attend Sunday School and we have enjoyed fun with the twins at Fellowship.

### Candles Recalled

Two types of candles are being recalled in Canada because the products present a fire hazard, a notice posted this week says. The product recall issued by Health

Canada says two scents of candles made by Revive are being recalled. They also pose a burn hazard, the recall notice said. Consumers are asked to stop using the three-wick soy candles in “Winter Cedar” and “Warm Spiced Latte” scents immediately. They should cut the wicks as short as possible, then dispose of the products in their household trash, Health Canada said. No injuries have been reported in Canada, where 3,103 candles were sold in November and December. The candles are made by EAP Innovations in Mt. Pleasant, Penn. Their SKU numbers are 1010030041 and 1010030040. Health Canada advises anyone with questions

**I'M NO BIRD EXPERT**



**BUT I'M GUESSING  
4 FEMALES AND 1 MALE**

*.. The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public.*

*.. Best way to get rid of kitchen odors: Eat out.*

*.. We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve years telling them to sit down and shut up.*

*.. I asked the waiter, 'Is this milk fresh?' He said, 'Lady, three hours ago it was grass.'*

*These are all quotes from Phyllis Diller*

If you know someone, or yourself, who would like a care call from Rev. Neufeld; call 204-441-8140

Our thoughts and prayers to anyone we have missed who are spending time in hospital: or having health issues.



Margaret Izzard ~ still in Reston Health Centre temporarily.

Please be sure to call or e-mail Marlane Wilson, with any reports of folks in hospital or needing some contact. 204 729-8574 or marlane.w@yahoo.com

Thinking of you, Georgina McEvoy, as you spend time in hospital with health issues; also to the Murray family. Best wishes and prayers.

Happier days for Grant and Sheila McCausland as Grant is now home from hospital after spending almost two weeks there.

Our thoughts and prayers to the family of Ina Slimmon who passed away on January 12th. She was a lovely lady!

Laura Cliffe, 102 years young, called me the other day to ask me to say 'Hi' to everyone!! She tried to FaceTime, but I missed it! Keep up the great spirit, Laura!! We love you!!

May you always have:  
Love to share, Cash to spare,  
Tires with air, And friends who care



Sunday, January 16th  
2nd Sunday after Epiphany  
45th Sunday of Pandemic  
God is always with us

**Our Friends in Personal Care and Senior Homes**

Dinsdale	Lois Aube
Fairview	Frank Basiuk, Audrey Campbell, Lillian Atchison, Linda Garson, Louise Hodge, Betty Russell, Keith Vrooman, Alma Yule
Souris PCH	Emma Garden
Rideau	Don Chambers, Murray Hicks, Robert Jarvie, Eleanor McCreath, Garry VanRenselaar
Valleyview	Laura Cliffe, Bernice Erskine, Shirley O'Driscoll, Lois Wolfe
Riverheights Terrace	Judy Diswinka, Patty Hargreaves, Al & Helen Lauder, Dave & Joyce McClelland, Vera Skayman
Rotary Villas	Beatrice Lee, Marg Lovstrom, Frank Rabe
Victoria Land-ing	Pat Rathwell, Ieleen Turner, Alice Wesley

**UCW Birthdays February**

Carolyn Heard  
February 5th

**Sunsets:**  
December 22nd  
4:29 pm  
January 22nd  
5:06 pm



**Trinitopics & Church Announcements**

The newsletter is prepared every 2nd week  
Delivery is being made to all non email

**The next issue will be February 4th, 2021**

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May God hold you in the palm of His Hand