

**WORKSHOPS, Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble annual conference,
JULY 14, 2018, Royal York Road United Church, Toronto**

When you register, you'll be asked to choose three workshops and one alternate. Please make a note of the time slots each is offered.

<p>Offered three times: 10:30-noon; 1:00-2:30; 3:00-4:30</p>	<p>BEGINNING THE JOURNEY: How to become an Affirming Ministry Eager or hesitant to begin the Affirming Ministry process in your ministry? Or just wondering what it is all about? Join us as we review the "Requirements for Becoming an Affirming Ministry" and answer questions you may have with regard to them. Learn how to get started and proceed through this important journey.</p>	<p>Presenter: Linda Hutchinson. Linda, a United Church member by birth and by choice, has worked/volunteered at all levels of The United Church of Canada with children, youth and adults, mainly in the areas of Resource Ministry and Affirm United's Affirming Ministries Program. She is a member of Sydenham Street United Church in downtown Kingston, an Affirming Ministry since 1999, has been a member of the Bay of Quinte Affirming Ministries Action Group since 2007, and has been the Coordinator of Affirm United's Affirming Ministry Program for Ontario since 2013. Linda is married to Bruce. They have two children, Rob and Mary, three granddaughters and one grandson – ages 13 to 8 years.</p>
<p>Offered three times: 10:30-noon; 1:00-2:30; 3:00-4:30</p>	<p>AFTER THE CELEBRATION: How to continue on the Affirming journey Share and hear amazing stories of how Affirming Ministries have lived out their commitment to be Affirming - celebrating diversity in their midst. Looking for new ideas and new initiatives? Come and find them here and bring your own stories for sharing. A summary of the ideas generated in this workshop will be made available to participants.</p>	<p>Presenter: Bruce Hutchinson. Bruce grew up in The United Church of Canada in a rural community near Lindsay Ontario. He has participated in leadership and church activities at all levels of the church and has worked with children, youth and adults. Bruce was Chair of the Sydenham Street United Church when it became an Affirming Ministry in 1999. Since 2007 Bruce has been an active participant in the Bay of Quinte Conference Affirming Ministries program and provided leadership in the process for the Conference to become an Affirming Ministry. Bruce currently serves on the Equity Committee of Bay of Quinte Conference. From 2008 to 2015 Bruce was a member of the national council for Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and was secretary from 2009 to 2015. Bruce is married to Linda. They have two children, Rob and Mary who are both married, and they have three granddaughters and a grandson, ages from 13 to 8.</p>
<p>Offered two times: 1:00-2:30; 3:00-4:30</p>	<p>TOBY'S PLACE: A New Safe Space for LGBTQ2S+ Youth (and Friends & Allies)</p>	<p>Presenter: Amanda Christie is the Program Manager of Toby's Place, a drop-in centre for LGBTQ2SIA+ youth, those questioning their gender and/or sexuality, and their friends and allies. With a</p>

	<p>Toby's Place is a weekly drop-in space for LGBTQ2SIA+ youth and their friends out of Birchcliff Bluffs United Church. Learn about the story of Toby's Place and how this church responded to need in the community to create a safe and welcoming place. Along with a discussion and presentation of the history of Toby's Place, this workshop will be interactive. There will be opportunities for participants to experience what goes on at Toby's Place each week (books, board games, arts and crafts, meditation, etc.). For more information on Toby's Place please see https://www.bbuc.ca/tobysplace, or follow us on social media (Facebook - Toby's Place, Twitter - TobysPlace33, Instagram - tobys.place33).</p>	<p>background in Global Development Studies and Gender Studies, Amanda is interested in support work, community development, trauma-informed practices, and transformative justice. She loves to discuss ways that we can co-create spaces that are safe(r), accountable, and affirming. Amanda attends St. Matt's United Church in Toronto.</p>
<p>Offered once: 10:30-noon</p>	<p>RAINBOW RAILROAD In countries all over the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified (LGBTI) people live in basic fear for their freedom, their safety and their lives. They often have nowhere to turn because their government and police not only tolerate but encourage this brutality. Rainbow Railroad exists to help these people get out of danger to somewhere safe. In the spirit of and with homage to the Underground Railroad, the mission of the Rainbow Railroad is to help LGBT people as they seek safe haven from state enabled violence, murder or persecution. Rainbow Railroad website</p>	<p>Presenter: Rainbow Railroad Team</p>
<p>Offered three times: 10:30-noon; 1:00-2:30; 3:00-4:30</p>	<p>IRIDESCE: THE LIVING APOLOGY Come and learn more This project was mandated by General Council 42 when the church voted to support a national project of story-sharing with people affected by the Church's 1988 decision — when the church declared that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, are welcome as full members and all members are eligible to be considered for ordered ministry. These stories would then help the church to discern if, and how, it might live into a possible apology to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and Two-Spirit people (LGBTQ2). Iridesce Website Iridesce on Facebook</p>	<p>Presenter: Aaron Miechkota, the project coordinator has a background in creative communication and is also a theology student based out of Montreal. Aaron is a lay person and an inquirer of our church, following a call to ministry.</p>
<p>Offered once: 1:00-4:30 (please note</p>	<p>IT TAKES A VILLAGE: A walking tour of Church and Wellesley neighbourhood A glimpse into our vibrant queer history in the gaybourhood through a walking tour of the Church/Wellesley Village. This</p>	<p>Presenters: Susie Henderson is the Minister for Communications and Community Engagement in Toronto Conference. A lifelong ecumenist/educator, she's worked alongside church folks in justice based circles as long as she can remember. Currently our queer</p>

<p>this workshop covers both afternoon slots.)</p>	<p>workshop takes both afternoon sessions. Participants will travel downtown together by public transit from Royal York Road United Church. Participation is limited.</p>	<p>little Toronto family is happy to call Parkdale home. David G. Hallman was a long-time staff member of The United Church of Canada and the World Council of Churches in social justice and environmental ethics. David has written a memoir entitled “August Farewell — the last sixteen days of a thirty-three-year romance” in which he chronicles the final days of his partner Bill's life interspersed with vignettes from their life together. His most recent “Book Tales,” a collection of gay literary short stories, came out in September 2016. David has lived in Toronto for most of his life.</p>
<p>Offered twice: 10:30-noon and 1:00-2:30.</p>	<p>THROUGH A GLASS DIMLY: Creating Art for Worship Exploring the intersection of art and worship, creating stained glass to express theological ideas for use in worship.</p>	<p>Presenter: Cynthia O'Connell is currently the minister of Glebe Road United Church in Toronto. She is an active ally and currently serves on the Affirming Task Group of Toronto Conference. She is passionate about the use of the arts in worship and frequently creates her own art for use in worship.</p>
<p>Offered twice: 10:30-noon and 3:00-4:30</p>	<p>AFFIRMING PARTNERSHIPS: A conversation with Dani Sia Choi Come to an informal conversation circle co-hosted by Jim Hodgson and our partner Dani Sia Choi. This is an opportunity to experience the two-fold dimension of our global partnership of The United Church of Canada -- human rights in society and inclusion in the church.</p>	<p>Presenters: Dani Sia Choi is a UCC global partner from the Sumdol congregation in Seoul Korea. She is a transrights activist in her community. Jim Hodgson is the Program Coordinator Caribbean & Latin America Partnership Program at The United Church of Canada.</p>
<p>Offered twice: 10:30-noon and 1:00-2:30.</p>	<p>RECONCILIATION A conversation about reconciliation from an indigenous point of view</p>	<p>Presenter: Maggie Dieter (McLeod) is the Executive Minister Aboriginal Ministries Circle & Indigenous Justice at The United Church of Canada</p>
<p>Offered three times: 10:30-noon; 1:00-2:30; 3:00-4:30.</p>	<p>BELONGING IN THE BODY: TRANSGENDER JOURNEYS OF FAITH Video and Discussion This 53 minute video offers a collection of stories from the lives of transgender Christians. Within these stories is opportunity to learn, to understand, and to advocate for our transgender siblings in Christ. Belonging in the Body is a timely and invaluable glimpse into the lives of transgender Christians. Short time of discussion following. <i>Belonging in the Body</i> was created by Generous Space Ministries.</p>	<p>Discussion facilitator to be announced.</p>