

Affirm Committee Report
Board Meeting, April 14, 2019

As a result of a vote at the February Annual General Meeting for committee members, the Affirm Committee has welcomed Elizabeth Héon as a new member. Reverend Meggin King has also officially joined our committee as our spiritual advisor.



Thank you and welcome Elizabeth and Meggin!

St. Paul's has taken another step in its journey of being a truly affirming congregation. As of two weeks ago, when you walk up the stairs into the church, the first thing you will see is a big, beautiful, colourful banner! This banner was created by the Affirm Committee to provide an inclusive welcome for all who enter our doors. On the left side,



the banner includes the updated United Church logo that was redesigned as part of the apology for the United Church's role in residential schools to include the four colours that represent Indigenous people in Canada. On the right side, the logo for the United Church's Affirm United group can be seen and a lovely

rainbow runs along the bottom of the banner as a sign of welcome for all LGBTQ people. We've already had a number of positive comments about the banner and hope that it continues to demonstrate our commitment to being a welcoming and affirming congregation.

The Affirm Committee is planning for mark the following dates of significance this year:

- May 19** – Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- June 9** – Pride Service in Mill Creek Park to kick off Pride Month
- December 1** – World AIDS Day

We anticipate that the Pride Service on June 9 will be the first of its kind in Trent Hills! The event will be held in Mill Creek Park with vibrant music by Stephen and Kathy Rapos, the Band and Choir, the Kids Club will be joining in on the music and the UCW have agreed to provide a lunch after the service. There will be rainbow balloons and decorations and a special group photo with rainbow flags to end the service in style! Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, a new Affirm Network has been started by the United Church Affirming Congregations in Peterborough and surrounding areas. St. Paul's was invited and two members of our Affirm Committee attended the meeting on April 3rd. We plan to continue attending to see how we can collaborate and work together to address LGBTQ and other affirming issues in this area.

Submitted by Jeanette Cournoyer
Affirm Committee Chair