



The United Church of Canada Saskatchewan Conference

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To: Every Congregation, Ministry, and Presbytery Within Saskatchewan Conference

Friends,

I write this letter as President of Saskatchewan Conference of The United Church of Canada. As you know, the Conference's annual general meeting was held from Thursday, May 30th to Sunday, June 2nd when over 200 people from various parts of Saskatchewan gathered in Estevan.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of an important decision that was made at the meeting. As the culmination of a 4 year process, those present at the meeting decided that Saskatchewan Conference should declare itself an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada. In doing so, Saskatchewan Conference confirms that it embraces diversity and strives to include all people regardless of age, gender, race, culture, education, ability, economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity to participate in the structures of the Conference.

Saskatchewan Conference will live out this declaration by continuing to stand by those who have been excluded and, at the same time, stand by those who have difficulty with this declaration. To this end we have sent a media release to various outlets throughout the province to communicate this decision publically.

As noted above, this decision marks the end of 4 years of education and consultation throughout the Conference while symbolizing the inclusivity of Saskatchewan Conference and communicating a welcome to all people. The United Church of Canada and Saskatchewan Conference have long advocated on behalf of the marginalized and for equality rights for those within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer community.



Mission and Service Fund

Enclosed with this letter is a question and answer chart which has been prepared for use as necessary within your congregation, ministry, or presbytery and also in conversations outside of your church in places such as the local coffee shop or post office. The chart includes information about the decision that has been made and confirms that this decision only relates to Saskatchewan Conference itself and not your individual ministry which will have to go through the process to become affirming if you choose to become affirming.

Should you have any questions about the decision that has been made or about this letter, feel free to contact me at 1 (306) 997-4402.

May God's love for all continue to be a part of God's vision for all of creation.

Yours in Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gayle Wensley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gayle Wensley
Saskatchewan Conference President

By electronic transmission only