

Diversity

At Robertson-Wesley the word “diversity” really means something. It means being a community of genuine welcome to all people. That’s why we have adopted this statement of Welcome and Inclusion:

In response to God’s call, we, the congregation of Robertson-Wesley United Church declare our commitment to opening our hearts and our church family to all people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstance. We recognize that many people’s lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore, as a compassionate and caring spiritual community we will stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

This is not an empty statement. We hold it before us as a constant reminder of who God calls us to be.

Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion go hand in hand. Inclusion at R-W means cultivating an environment where everyone has an opportunity to fully participate and where each person is valued for her or his unique gifts, experiences, beliefs and viewpoints. We strive to ensure that everyone has

a chance to participate in the life of this congregation, be it in worship, educational programs, committee work, and community events.

Inclusive of All

At RW, we understand it is not enough to say “All are welcome”. We actually need to mean it by affirming and celebrating everyone’s unique gifts, including those of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered persons. We have an inclusive marriage policy: both same-gender and opposite gender couples are welcome to celebrate their wedding here.

There are great opportunities for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) focused growth and learning. “Draw the Circle Wide”, our fellowship and book discussion group meets at 7:00 PM on the first Monday of the month either at the church or in group members’ homes. Check out “A Queer Sight to See,” our LGBT themed movie nights held here at the church. On the second Sunday of each month we host a worship service/sharing circle for the larger LGBT community here in Edmonton.

While recognizing that we will always have work to do, we are striving to be a community that truly affirms everyone. This is why we are

presently exploring becoming an Affirming Congregation.

Inclusive of All Ages

Every generation is valued in our community. We strive to reflect this in our spiritual life together as children, youth, adults and elders come together to worship. We begin our worship time with all ages present. Each generation takes a turn lighting the candles and leading the Call to Worship. Youth are present in the front row, ready to welcome teen newcomers and guests before they go downstairs for Youth Worship. Children’s Time is an opportunity for our youngest members to share leadership as we explore faith together before they head downstairs for Kids’ Church. Several Sundays a year we worship as a whole family.

All ages are welcome to help lead worship, especially as greeters, readers and communion servers. All are welcome to share communion.

Full membership in a United Church congregation is conferred through confirmation, a time when we publicly declare our desire to follow the way of Jesus and practice our faith within the life of the church. Anyone over the age of 14 can be confirmed, conferring the same rights and responsibility to vote as any other member of R-W.

We recognize that young adults have unique needs, interests and schedules. On most Sunday evenings there are alternative services for anyone who would like to worship in a less formal way. There are also times for fellowship with monthly potlucks and “The Lounge” in the basement as a place to just hang-out.

Those with many years of experience are an important part of R-W. Our Seniors Council strives to respond to the special needs and perspectives of seniors by promoting nurture of spirit and relationships and coordinating opportunities for learning.

Inclusive of All Abilities

As a community, we are a mix of different abilities and needs. Our church building is fully accessible for those with limited mobility. We have an elevator which goes to all three levels of our facility. It can be accessed through the entrance to the Memorial Building off 123rd St. During the main sanctuary worship, hearing assists are available as are large print bulletins. In addition, Robertson-Wesley hosts a community choir which is open to anyone over the age of 16 with a developmental or physical disability, regardless of musical ability. Choir members sing music ranging from African chants and old time hymns to a variety of

secular music. They use movement and instruments. Contact the church office for more information.

Inclusive Theology

All are welcome regardless of faith tradition. We welcome theological diversity. If you have faith questions, this is the place to explore them. We host *The Pathways Centre*, an educational forum for cutting-edge, progressive Christian faith and theological reflection.

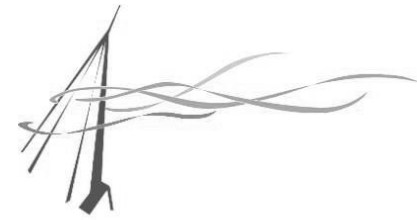
Celebrating a Diverse Earth

Because we live in a beautiful yet fragile world, we are committed to protecting our environment. With this in mind we encourage everyone to utilize the recycling receptacles available throughout our facility as well as the compost bin available in the hall during fellowship time. Aware that water is a gift and not a commodity, we only use tap water for congregational events. When possible we buy locally grown products.



For more information contact Carmen at 482-1587 or email: mail@rwuc.org.

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Diversity & Inclusion at Robertson- Wesley



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