

Statement of Welcome & Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

We are an affirming Church

At Robertson-Wesley, we understand it's not enough to say "All are welcome." We need to mean it by affirming and celebrating each person's unique gifts, including those in the LGBTQ2+ community. When we say all are welcome we mean in all rituals, ceremonies and programs we offer at the church, including marriage.

While recognizing that we will always have work to do, we are striving to be a community that affirms everyone. This is why, in 2009, we became an Affirming Congregation, that is, a congregation within the United Church of Canada that has taken and will continue to take a public stance for the inclusion of all people in both the Church and the broader community regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ability, age, or any other "difference" that too easily becomes a barrier.



The United Church of Canada is:

- It is a Protestant church
- It is specific to Canada
- It was formed in 1925 when the Methodist Church, the Congregational Union Church and 70% of the Presbyterian Churches decided to unite
- We believe in the priesthood of all which means that we are all called by God to participate in the mission and ministry of the church
- We began to ordain women in 1936
- In 1988, the church apologized to First Nations congregations for past denials of native spirituality by the church,
- In 1988, the church stated that "all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, who profess their faith in Jesus Christ are welcome to be or become members of The United Church of Canada and eligible to be considered for ordered ministry
- We have two sacraments, baptism and communion
- We are a conciliatory church and the people make decisions of the church. We have a moderator who is the national voice and face of the church and is elected to a three-year term at the General Council Level.

About the Bible:

The Bible is the shared standard for our faith, but members are not required to adhere to any particular interpretation or any of its formulations of doctrine. It is a source of wisdom, inspired by God (not the literal word of God). We read the Bible in its context. This means that we acknowledge that what was experienced when the Bible was written doesn't necessarily fit with today's world.

About the Theology:

All are welcome regardless of their faith tradition. We welcome theological diversity. If you have faith questions, this is the place to explore them.

Right Relations:

The United Church continues to work toward the "Call to Action for Churches" from the Truth and Reconciliation. You will notice that we acknowledge our indigenous members in the crest with the 4 colours of the medicine wheel and the phrase in Mohawk which means "All my relations."

The United Church Crest



A New Creed (1968)

We are not alone.
We live in God's world.
We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus the word made flesh
to reconcile and make new.
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence
to live with respect in creation
to love and serve others
to seek justice and resist evil
to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen
Our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us, we are not alone.
Thanks be to God

Other Statements of Faith for the United Church of Canada:

- 2006 A Song of Faith:
<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/song-faith>
- 1940 A Statement of Faith:
<https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/statement-of-faith-1940.pdf>
- 1925 Twenty Articles of Faith:
<https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/twenty-articles-doctrine.pdf>

Active locally and nationally

We are part of the United Church of Canada's wider church ministry and this helps our actions reach far and wide. Locally, we are engaged in the United Church mission sites such as Bissell Center in Edmonton's downtown core and help fund city-wide LGBTQ chaplains and intercultural programs. Regionally, we elect representatives to help in decision making in the areas of church support and community help (as far north as Yellowknife). Nationally, the United Church is prioritizing conversations that explore white privilege and emphasize the voices of minorities. We also aid in the funding of international and inter-faith partnerships in countries requesting our participation in dialogue and learning.

Robertson-Wesley United Church

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Who is Robertson-Wesley United Church?



Robertson-Wesley is a place of:

Inclusion & Diversity
Artistic Exploration
Community Partnership
Outreach
Healing
Spirituality

