



Journey to Affirming: Come Learn with Us

St Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie
October 16 to 23, 2022



St. Paul's United church is on a journey to become an Affirming Ministry. Affirming Ministries are Public Intentional and Explicit about welcoming and creating a safe, respectful space for 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

You are invited to join us as we present a week of learning sessions, culminating in conversations and presentations with The Very Rev. Gary Paterson.

Gary Paterson Highlights

- One of the United Church's facilitators for the first study of Human Sexuality in 1980
- A Commissioner at General Council in 1988 when it was decided that "all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, who profess their faith in Jesus Christ are welcome to become members of The United Church of Canada" and that "all members of the United Church are eligible to be considered for ordered ministry".
- Elected Moderator in 2012, the first openly gay person in the world to be chosen as the leader of a major denomination
- Served as an openly gay minister for 30 years
- Married to the first openly gay person ordained in the United Church
- Good speaker with a sense of humour
- Happy to answer questions and engage in conversations

We appreciate the ongoing input and encouragement from local agencies which support 2SLGBTQIA+ persons, including: GALAP (Gay and Lesbian Association of the Peace), PRIDE Society, Friendship Centre, Sunrise House, Cool Aid, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

For more information contact:

St Paul's United Church

Phone: 780-532-2415 ;

Email: Secretary@stpaulsuc.ca

No Charge for Sessions

Meals are not provided, except where noted, nor is accommodation, but if you have friends in Grande Prairie, feel free to ask for bed and breakfast!

Resource list and display of affirming books and videos will be available.

Session Schedule

**** Sunday October 16 10 am** - live streamed Church Service – Sermon: "Scripture: Weapon or Balm" Rev Gord Waldie (he/him)

Tuesday October 18 7 to 9 pm

- "Gender and Sexual Diversity" & "Why are pronouns and chosen names important" followed by Q&A time focused on how to support family and friends who are coming out.

Typanga Evans (they/them), Educator with Northreach Society

Wednesday Oct 19 11:15 am to 1:15 pm: (lunch will be provided):

- "Gender and Sexual Diversity" & "Why are pronouns and chosen names important" followed by Q&A time focused on how to support family and friends who are coming out.

Typanga Evans (they/them), Educator with Northreach Society

Wednesday October 19 7-9 pm – Youth Activity Labyrinth Walk, Sound Bath,

Journal Question "What does it mean to be truly me?"

Liz McCallum (she/her)

Thursday October 20 7 - 9pm: PFLAG – Parent Information Session Tentative

**** Friday October 21 7 pm** Keynote address: "A Journey of Affirmation" (live stream) followed by coffee and conversation

The Very Reverend Gary Paterson (he/him), Moderator of UCC from 2012-2015

YouTube Link <https://youtu.be/l67fv-9VtUk>

Friday Oct 21 8:30pm – PRIDE Dance – Tentative

Saturday October 22 2 - 4pm "Tea" and Discussion:

"Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!" –

Written questions will be fielded by Reverend Gary Paterson (he/him)

Saturday October 22 7 pm - "Mending the World Together":

Rev Gary Paterson (he/him) will moderate a Panel including people from Grande Prairie's 2SLGBTQIA+ community and organizations.

**** Sunday October 23 10am** - live streamed Church Service –

Sermon: "Building a Longer Table" presented by Rev Gary Paterson (he/him)

Sunday October Following Service - Soup and Sandwich Lunch followed by Q&A or table discussion groups with Gary Paterson (he/him).

**** Sunday, October 16th 10 am; and Friday, Oct 21st – 7 pm;**

And Sunday Oct 23rd – 10 am livestream will be on our YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-aWw0Tc165vh6EpdR-XBxw>