

ST. MARK'S UNITED CHURCH

A progressive, inclusive, and life affirming Christian community of faith within The United Church of Canada

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PROGRESSIVE AND INCLUSIVE ... Towards Becoming an "Affirming Congregation"

GLBT in Scarborough?

St. Mark's is in the process of engaging the programme for becoming a formally designated "Affirming Church" through the Affirming Congregations and Ministries Programme of The United Church of Canada. We will continue to embrace inclusivity in policy, protocol, practice and daily life.

Join us on March 18th at 7:30 for an informal evening. St. Mark's United Church, 115 Orton Park, Scarborough, M1G 3G9

This session is designed as one for the community to be with us in conversation, telling their stories of exclusion and inclusion

and what we might do differently in developing a safe, inclusive, and respectful ministry. The event will be an informal, welcoming, listening, hearing opportunity.

What is a designated "Affirming Congregation"? An "Affirming Congregation" is one that has intentionally reflected upon what it means to be inclusive and that has evaluated its openness to the ongoing work of being intentional about how it welcomes and includes others within the life and work of the church. All barriers to those wishing to be a part of the congregation are explored, particularly, though not only, those around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.



Contact <u>affirming@st-marks.ca</u> for more information about the evening or check out <u>www.st-marks.ca</u> to find out more about our ministry.