



BETHANY UNITED CHURCH
ERRATUM NOTICE - MARCH 2023

We regret that the following report was not included at the time that the 2022 Annual Report was printed:

Community Connections Working Group

The Community Connections Working Group has not been active as a committee during the past two years due to the protocols put in place by NS Public Health and Bethany Church. During this time the kitchen was also under renovation. These protocols and renovations made it difficult to bring our community together for meals and events that the working group had organized pre-pandemic. With renovations complete and safety protocols loosened we were pleased to have met in October of this year to plan how we will move forward connecting our Bethany community as well as the greater community.

During this meeting we reviewed our previous initiatives: ISANS; Walk and Talk; Digital Sign: Past Fundraisers. We discussed the Community Meals we had in the past with two lunches and two evening meals in the winter and spring months. We hope to be able to offer these meals in the near future and continue to focus on healthy, local foods and sustainability. We also look forward to planning fundraiser events that bring us together for an evening of fun and fellowship.

It was suggested by a number of people at Bethany that the working group seek information on what it means to be an affirming church through Affirm United, a partner of the United Church of Canada. Affirming Ministries are congregations, presbyteries, Conferences, educational institutions, and other ministries within the United Church that publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Although Affirming Ministries make an explicit statement about issues of sexuality and gender, their commitment to justice is far broader. They continually grow and change as they seek to live more fully into God's way of welcome, love, and justice for all creation. Affirming Ministries work in many different ways toward the healing and wholeness of creation: challenging bias and discrimination based on appearance, culture, class, or age; working to end racism; promoting economic justice; increasing accessibility; caring for the planet. Affirming Ministries seek to go beyond issues of gender diversity and sexual orientation to work for justice and inclusion for all people.

A sub-committee was formed to research this request. A proposal was made to Session in late November seeking approval for the sub-committee to explore the process of becoming an Affirming United Church. This proposal was discussed and approved by Session. Two Session members have joined the work of this committee which is now called the Affirm United Working Group. This team of volunteers will embark the Bethany community on an educational, discernment and decision-making process that helps our ministry to be a more welcoming, inclusive safe place for all people.

We look forward to our continued journey of connecting with others here at Bethany and the greater community, in a welcoming and inclusive environment abundant in God's love.

Respectfully submitted: Cheri Wilson and Ann Bradley, Co-Chairs.

Cheri Wilson Co-Chair

Bev Johnson

Ann Bradley Co-Chair

Kathy Grant

Mavis Hicks

Margie Guy

Maureen Reynolds

Dana Mills

Karen Hatcher

Mary MacKay

Bev Grant

We apologize for any undue distress this may have caused.