

Year	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in The United Church of Canada - national highlights
1970's	Lesbian and gay church members begin to form groups for mutual support
1980	A study is produced, <i>In God's Image...Male and Female: A Study on Human Sexuality</i> , providing education on human sexuality, sexual orientation, ordination and commissioning of declared homosexual people
1981	There are now local lesbian and gay United Church of Canada groups in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Vancouver
1982	<i>Affirm/Affirmer: Gays and Lesbians in The United Church of Canada</i> is independently formed to support individual lesbian and gay members of the church and to advocate for their full inclusion
1984	<i>Gift, Dilemma, and Promise: A Report and Affirmations of Human Sexuality</i> , addresses sexuality and selfhood, marriage, intimacy, sexism, society, and sexual orientation
	The church affirms its acceptance of all human beings as persons made in the image of God regardless of their sexual orientations. The church acknowledges that it has encouraged, condoned and tolerated the rejection and persecution of homosexual persons in society and in the church, and calls upon the church to repent
	United Church members form <i>Friends of Affirm</i> to support <i>Affirm</i>
1988	General Council 32 declares that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, are declared welcome as full members and all members are eligible to be considered for ordered ministry. It also affirms that God's intention for all human relationships (<i>both heterosexual and homosexual couples</i>) is that they be faithful, responsible, just, loving, health-giving, healing, and sustaining of community and self (see Membership, Ministry and Human Sexuality)
1990	<i>Affirm</i> is invited into official dialogue with the General Council Executive
	The United Church reaffirms its decision to include gay and lesbian people in ministry
1991	<i>Affirm</i> establishes the <i>Affirming Congregations Program</i> , a network of United Church congregations that publicly affirm and support people of all sexual orientations
1992	The church calls upon the Federal Government to guarantee access to basic social, health care, and economic services regardless of gender, ability, race, age, sexual orientation or place of residency
	The church urges the Government to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground for discrimination
	Tim Stevenson becomes the first openly gay minister to be ordained in the church
	The General Council recommends that the church support the <i>Affirming Congregation Program</i>
1994	The Division of Mission in Canada urges the Federal Government to ensure that sexual orientation be identified as a ground for gender persecution as outlined in the Immigration and Refugee Board guidelines
	<i>Affirm</i> and <i>Friends of Affirm</i> merge to become <i>Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble</i> (name agreed upon in 1995)

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1995	<i>Together in Faith: Inclusive Resources about Sexual Diversity for Study, Dialogue, Celebration, and Action</i> , is published providing liturgical and pastoral resources for same-sex covenants
1997	The General Council encourages all Conferences to urge their provincial governments to promote tolerance by requiring that all teachers study issues regarding gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual students; and encourages all school boards to adopt policies that include "sexual orientation" in their non-harassment policy The church supports the amendment of the Income Tax Act to redefine the word "spouse" by deleting the phrase "of the opposite sex" and thereby treating same-sex spouses the same as opposite sex spouses
1998	<i>Daring to Be United: Including Lesbians and Gays in The United Church of Canada</i> , by Alyson Huntly is published by UCPH
2000	The church adopts the policy to affirm and work toward the civil recognition of same-sex partnerships The church affirms that all sexual orientations are a gift from God, renounces the 1960 statement that homosexuality is a sin The church encourages courts, congregations and members to learn ways to offer healing for the damage inadvertently caused by the historic stance of our church on homosexuality The United Church officially endorses the <i>Affirming Congregations Program</i> and encourages its ministries to participate
2001	After a year of studying issues concerning transgendered and transsexual people, <i>Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble</i> agrees to add transgender people to their name and constitution
2003	Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth Issues in Canada : Action Resources for United Church Congregations is published Of Love and Justice : Toward the Civil Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage (a congregational guide) is published affirming lesbian and gay partnerships and recognizing them in church documentation and services of blessing The church calls on the Government of Canada to recognize same-sex marriage in the marriage legislation The <i>Affirming Congregations Program</i> is renamed the Affirming Ministries Program in order to include all church ministries
2005	The church endorses the legalization of same-sex marriage
2006	The church encourages the ongoing study of same-sex marriage and the development of congregational marriage policies
2008	The General Council Executive affirms the full participation and ministry of transgender people within the church.
2009	The church affirms the participation and ministry of transgender people and encourages congregations to welcome transgender people into membership, ministry, and full participation The <i>Trans/Gender Diversity Task Group</i> is formed by the General Secretary, General Council, to report to General Council 41 in 2012
2010	Cindy Bourgeois is the first openly transgender person ordained in the United Church Survey on being transgender in the United Church: completed by 193 trans people and 138 allies – informs work of the Task Group A tool for dialogue with global partners, Moving Toward Full Inclusion: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in The United Church of Canada presents how the church has journeyed toward full inclusion of peoples of all sexual orientations and gender identities

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2011	383 people participate in a series of GLBTT National Consultations which provide opportunities for GLBTT people and allies to help shape an open, welcoming and affirming United Church. A report is offered as accountability for the directions of General Council 41
2012	The work of the Trans/Gender Diversity Task Group comes to an end, having created: web page with recommended resources ; Facebook page ; liturgy; Transgender Kit; Trans 101 workshops; database of speakers; the UCC Trans Network . A final report with recommendations is received and work sent to appropriate staff and/or committees for follow-up: options on forms for gender identity/pronouns; name/gender changes on historical documents; research health coverage for persons transitioning; and the need for a protocol for courts/ ministries whose staff are transitioning.
	The church acknowledges the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation ; affirms that gender identity is not a barrier to membership and ministry; and requests the General Secretary to update all existing policy statements which refer only to <i>sexual orientation</i> by adding <i>and gender identities</i>
	The General Council registration form includes, for the first time, the option for participants to self-identify gender. Acknowledged at General Council 41 as a way the church is working to more fully welcome trans people
	At General Council 41, Ruth Woods, a UCC transgender woman/ordained minister, shares her story in a video entitled, Ruth's Story
	The Rt. Rev. Gary Paterson is elected as Moderator - the first openly gay leader of a mainline Christian denomination
	General Council 41 directs the General Secretary to lead the General Council Executive and the General Council Office Staff to engage in the Affirming Ministry Program
2013	For the first time the church supports an LGBTQ refugee



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