AFFIRMING PROCESS FOR AMALGAMATIONS

When Churches make the decision to amalgamate, it is after many, many conversations which we hope will include intentions about being Affirming.

If both/all congregations are Affirming, this time will be a time to re-Affirm the newly formed congregation's commitment by

- submitting its Affirming Vision Statement, Action Plan and Equal Marriage Policy.
- Voting to reaffirm its commitment
- Paying its membership to AUSE
- Celebrating its commitment as a new congregation to be Affirming.
- A new certificate will be issued.

1 Discerning



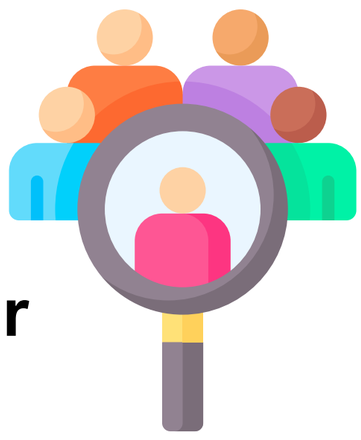
If only one congregation is Affirming but the other(s) are not, more conversation will be necessary. The intention of the new congregation becoming Affirming should take place as part of the amalgamation conversations although the educational piece and documentation will probably happen once the new congregation is formed. This will be a time of new learning for some and review/updating for others. A good bonding opportunity!

2 Embarking



Learn about what it means to be Affirming and develop an Affirming Vision Statement, Action Plan and Equal Marriage Policy. Former Affirming documents can be used as starting points.

3 Documenting & Deciding Together



Connect with all those within the new congregation for input and decision making. Hold a congregational vote to become Affirming - minimum of 75% required. Join Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble for an annual fee.

4 Celebrating!!



Hold a public celebration as you begin to live into BEING AFFIRMING!!