

Background:

At the November meeting of the Mount Royal United Church Council, a discussion was held and a motion passed regarding how United Church clergy / paid accountable staff be sensitized to issues around homophobia.

The motion read “that Council empower Cindy Casey to submit on its behalf a motion to Quebec Presbytery recommending that United Church clergy be required to take a course on homophobia along with currently obligatory courses on racism and sexual harassment”.

It is the hope of Mount Royal United Church Council that all clergy / paid accountable ministers within the United Church will be required to explore issues surrounding homophobia, sensitized to how homophobia affects the life and work of the church, and trained to stop homophobia from being promulgated.

Motion to Consistoire Québec Presbytery:

The Governing Council of Mount Royal United received and approved the following proposal to be considered by the Consistoire Québec Presbytery at its meeting of February 24, 2018.

Whereas, The United Church of Canada is committed to providing a safe environment for worship, work, and study in all pastoral charges, congregations, institutions, agencies, organizations, or other bodies that operate under its name;

Whereas, in 2006 implemented Mandatory Radical Justice Workshops; and in 2010, mandated that all Ministry Personnel participate in workshops focussing on the Sexual Abuse Policy of the United Church of Canada;

Whereas a statement was made at the 40th General Council in 2009 that “in matters respecting doctrine, worship, membership and governance, The United Church of Canada is opposed to discrimination against any person on the basis of age, ancestry, colour, disability, ethnic origin, gender identity, language, marital status, place of origin, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or any other basis by which a person is devalued”;

It is proposed, as a further step along the pathway of making the United Church a safe and welcoming community of faith we propose that:

- **The parameters of Mandated Training by all clergy/paid accountable ministers, extend to training workshops dedicated to the issues, concerns and consequences of homophobia to our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer-questioning, two-spirited (LGBTQ2) brothers and sisters, and to their families of origin and families created, in an effort to help the United Church of Canada continue to live out its principles and engagement with justice and to facilitate an end to homophobia being promulgated in the church;**
- **And, as the church seeks to formally apologize to the LGBTQ2 community, the implementation of a policy dedicated to combatting further harm on the part of the church, is a step in honoring its commitment. Further we propose the time frame to develop and implement the training, to not exceed a two-year period.**

We ask that the Consistoire Quebec Presbytery, in one of its final acts as a court of the United Church of Canada, to support this proposal to help ensure we honour to ensure the well-being of all who form the Body of Christ and work to continue to break down barriers and build right relationships and just institutions.