

Good Morning,

For those of you who don't know me I am Noah Comar. I am Rev Andy and Lorraine's son, and I have been a part of the affirming committee since it's inception a year and a half ago.

I have been a part of the United Church of Canada all my life, and because of the nature of my parents careers I have been exposed to many different congregations in both rural and urban settings.

I have seen how the church has evolved over my life time, and as it changed I became more hopeful. Yet in all that time I never felt secure enough to declare myself.

Like many places I have been, as a gay man, I have never felt completely safe, and the same sentiment has been felt by many in the LGBTQ2+ community.

The fear of exposure, of judgment, of being rejected before arrival. Along with this fear is also resentment. I have met many whose faith families have turned them away, and in doing so destroyed their faith.

I am a proud gay man, I am also a proud Christian, but I also want to be proud of my church. A church who says they live the welcome, and Live it. A church who denies the love of Jesus to no one. A church who, as the song goes, draws the circle wide, so no one stands alone.

The best way to bridge this divide is to live out the message of the rainbow. A church that embraces the spirit of the rainbow says much about itself. The message is loud and clear . You are welcome. You are safe here.

As it is said in our affirming vision statement:

We will celebrate in welcoming all people,
inclusive of all ages, genders, gender identities,
sexual orientations, races, differing abilities,
ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and
economic circumstances.

I look forward to AUC taking this next important step together.

January 19, 2020