



FINDING AID 527

FONDS 527
AFFIRM UNITED/S'AFFIRMER ENSEMBLE FONDS

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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AFFIRM UNITED/S'AFFIRMER ENSEMBLE FONDS. – 1979-2010. – 54 cm of textual records

Prior to 1982, various regional groups existed to provide support and strategies for lesbians and gays in the United Church: United Church Gays and Lesbians of B.C.; One Loaf (Regina); The Council on Homosexuality and Religion (Winnipeg); TOUCH – Toronto United Church Homosexuals; and United Church Gays and Lesbians of Quebec (UCGLQ). The latter group, UCGLQ, offered to host and organize a gathering in Montreal days before the 29th General Council in August 1982 to explore the possibility of establishing a national network within the United Church for gay and lesbian persons.

AFFIRM – Gays and Lesbians in the United Church of Canada was established on August 5, 1982 as a national network of regional groups of lesbian and gay members and adherents of the United Church to:

Affirm gay and lesbian people within the United Church of Canada, provide a network of support among regional groups, act as a point of contact for individuals and speak to the church in a united fashion encouraging it to act prophetically and pastorally both within and beyond the church structure.

Open to all gay and lesbian people associated with the United Church of Canada, AFFIRM members could participate at the annual general meeting and establish local groups which would have representation on the National Consultative Council. The National Consultative Council, consisting of chairperson(s), secretary/treasurer, and local representatives, would appoint functions to the local groups, deal with policy making, and to make decisions between general meetings.

Affirm worked with the support within Friends of Affirm, an organization of lay and order of ministry people who supported the aims and programs of Affirm. Affirm/Friends of Affirm submitted briefs to church and government decision-making bodies, spoke at church meetings, and offered educational events and resources. The Affirming Congregation Programme was launched by Affirm and Friends of Affirm in the summer of 1992 to provide materials to study the issues of inclusion and welcoming of diverse peoples, namely gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. Participating United Church organizations become Affirming Ministries.

At a joint 1994 annual general meeting, the decision was made to merge Affirm and Friends of Affirm at the national level to “afford new opportunities for all people regardless of sexual orientation to work together.” The new organization was named Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble.

Fonds consists of records of Affirm and antecedent organizations, 1979-1996; records of National Affirm United, 1987-2010; and records of regional Affirm United and antecedent organizations, 1982-2003.

See also Division of Mission in Canada fonds 231, National Coordinating Group on Sexual Orientations, Lifestyles and Ministry fonds 529, Division of Ministry Personnel and Employment fonds 518.

SERIES 1: RECORDS OF AFFIRM AND ANTECEDENT ORGANIZATIONS. – 1979-1995. – 20 cm of textual records

Series consists of correspondence and reports of antecedent organizations: United Church Gays and Lesbians of Quebec (UCGLQ), 1979-1982, Toronto United Church Homosexuals (T.O.U.C.H.), 1982, and Gays and Lesbians of the United Church in B.C., 1981; minutes and correspondence, reports and briefs of National Affirm, 1982-1996. (See Series 3 for records of Affirm regional groups.)

Acc. No.	Box-File	Title	Date(s)
2010.069C	1-1	United Church Gays and Lesbians of Quebec (UCGLQ) correspondence	1979-1982
	1-2	Toronto United Church Homosexuals (T.O.U.C.H.). Brief sent to Task Group on the Ordination/Commissioning of Self-Declared Homosexuals	1982
	1-3	Gays and Lesbians of the United Church in B.C. correspondence	1981
		AFFIRM	
	1-4	Constitution	1983-1991
	1-5	Annual general meeting	1983
	1-6	---	1984
	1-7	---	1985
	1-8	---	1986
	1-9	---	1987-1988
	1-10	---	1989-1990
	1-11	---	1991
	1-12	---	1992-1995
	1-13	National Consultative Council minutes and correspondence	1981-1986
	1-14	National Consultative Council /Coordinating Committee minutes and correspondence	1988-1990
	1-15	---	1991
	1-16	---	1992-1995
2018.185C	TR-1	Pamphlets, Ephemera <i>Correspondence/Subject files</i>	n.d.
2010.069C	1-17	General correspondence	1982-1993
2011.056C	TR-1	---	1990-1995
2010.069C	1-18	Chairperson correspondence	1989-1990
	1-19	---	1990-1991
	1-20	---	1991-1992
	1-21	---	1994-1995
	1-22	Secretary correspondence	1984-1986
	2-2	Affirm Foundation	1983-1995
2010.129C	1-5	Consensus newsletters	1983-1989
	1-6	---	1990-1995
2010.069C	2-6	General Council	1988
	2-7	---	1989-1990
	2-8	---	1990
	2-9	New Genesis	1984
	2-10	United Church Conferences <i>Reports and briefs</i>	1989-1990
2010.069C	2-11	Reports on founding of Affirm	1982-1984
	2-12	A discussion paper on lifestyle submitted to the Writing Team of the Human Sexuality report	1983

Acc. No.	Box-File	Title	Date(s)
		(30 th General Council)	
	2-13	Reports of the Task Group on the ordination/commissioning of self-declared homosexual persons (DMPE)	1983
2010.069C	2-14	A statement on our ordained and commissioned ministry in our United Church of Canada	1984
	2-15	Critical review of Toward a Christian understanding of sexual orientation, lifestyles and ministry by Eilert Frerichs	1988
	2-16	Stories of our lives in our United Church of Canada by members of AFFIRM	1990
	2-17	Same-gender covenanting services: a congregational resource	1992

SERIES 2: RECORDS OF NATIONAL AFFIRM UNITED. – 1987-2010. – 27 cm of textual records

Series consists of records of the national Affirm United, including: annual general meeting minutes, correspondence and reports, 1996-2006; minutes and correspondence of the National Consultative Council, 1996-1998, 2000-2004; general correspondence, 1995-1998, 2001; newsletters, 1996-2007; minutes, correspondence and resource publications of Affirming Congregations Administrative Task Group, 1990-2007, including correspondence with Affirming United Church organizations/congregations, 1987-2010.

SERIES 2/Subseries 1: RECORDS OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. – 1995-2007. – 14 cm of textual records

Acc. No.	Box-File	Title	Date(s)
2011.056C	TR-2	Constitution	1995
2010.069C	2-18	Annual General Meeting minutes and correspondence	1996-1999
2010.129C	1-1	--- reports and correspondence	2000-2003
	1-2	---	2004-2006
2010.069C	2-19	National Consultative Council minutes and correspondence	1996-1998
2010.129C	1-3	---	2000-2002
	1-4	---	2002-2004
2016.088C	TR-1	Affirm United Council	2009-2011
2011.056C	TR-3	NCC Working Groups Conference Call minutes <i>Correspondence/Subject files</i>	2002
2010.069C	2-20	General correspondence	1995-1998
2011.056C	TR-4	---	1996-1997
	TR-5	---	2001

SERIES 2/Subseries 2: RECORDS OF AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS PROGRAM. – 1987-2010. – 15 cm of textual records.

Acc. No.	Box-File	Title	Date(s)
		General	
2010.129C	1-7	Consensus newsletters	1996-1999
	1-8	---	2000-2006
2010.069C	2-21	--- (Nov.)	2007

Acc. No.	Box-File	Title	Date(s)	
2010.069C	2-22	Affirming Congregations Administrative Task Group minutes and correspondence	1990-2007	
	2-23	Consultant Training	1993-1995	
	2-24	Programme kit	2004	
	2-25	Resources	1995-1998	
	Maritimes			
	3-1	Centenary Queen Square United Church (Saint John, N.B.)	1999-2001	
	3-2	Central UC (Moncton, N.B.)	2003	
	3-3	St. John's UC (Halifax, N.S.)	2001	
	3-4	Tatamagouche Centre (N.S.),	2001-2003	
	Quebec			
	3-5	Eglise Unie Sainte-Pierre (Quebec City, Que.)	2004	
	3-6	Rosedale - Queen Mary United Church (Montreal, Que.)	2004	
	3-7	St. Jean United Church (Montreal, Que.)	2002	
	3-8	Union U.C. (Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.)	1999-2002	
3-9	United Theological College (Montreal, Que.)	2001, 2004		
Ontario				
2010.069C	3-10	Bathurst Street United Church (Toronto, Ont.),	1996	
	3-11	Bloor Street United Church (Toronto, Ont.),	1987-1995	
	3-12	Centenary United Church (Hamilton, Ont.)	2002	
	3-13	Coordinating Committee on Inclusive Ministries, Toronto Conference (Ont.)	1994-1997	
	3-14	Emmanuel Howard Park United Church (Toronto, Ont.)	2002-2004	
	3-15	First United Church (Ottawa, Ont.)	2001-2002	
	3-16	Five Oaks Centre (Paris, Ont.)	2005	
	3-17	Glen Rhodes United Church (Toronto, Ont.)	1995-1996	
	3-18	Harcourt United Church (Guelph, Ont.)	2001-2005	
	3-20	Mount Dennis United Church (Toronto, Ont.)	2009-2010	
	3-19	Metropolitan Untied Church (Toronto, Ont.)	1999	
	3-21	Newtonbrook United Church (Toronto, Ont.)	2002	
	3-22	St. Andrew's United Church, (Sioux Lookout, Ont.)	2004	
	3-23	St. John's UC (Marathon, Ont.)	2002	
3-24	Sydenham Street UC (Kingston, Ont.)	1999		
3-25	Trinity – St. Paul's UC (Toronto, Ont.)	1994-1995		
2010.069C	3-26	Victoria Avenue U.C. (Chatham, Ont.)	2008	
	3-27	Wesley U.C. (Cambridge, Ont.)	2002	
	3-28	Westminster U.C. (Waterloo, Ont.)	1998-1999	
	Manitoba			
3-29	Augustine United Church (Winnipeg, Man.),	1993-1995		
3-30	Cambrian Presbytery	2002		
3-31	Immanuel United Church (Winnipeg, Ont.),	2004		
3-32	Rainbow Ministry (Winnipeg, Man.)	n.d.		
3-33	St. Mary's Road UC (Winnipeg, Man.)	2004		
3-34	United Church Campus Ministry – University of Manitoba	2001		
3-35	Young U.C. (Winnipeg, Man.)	1995		

Acc. No.	Box-File	Title	Date(s)
		Western Canada	
	3-36	Calling Lakes Centre (Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.)	2005
	3-37	First United Church (Kelowna, BC)	n.d.
	3-38	First United Church (Salmon Arm, B.C.),	2003-2004
	3-39	First United Church (Vancouver, B.C.)	1996-1997
	3-40	Kamloops United Church (B.C)	2000-2004
	3-41	Ryerson United Church (Vancouver, B.C.)	2001
	3-42	St. James United Church (Regina, Sask.)	1997-2004
	3-43	St. Paul's UC (Burnaby, B.C.)	1997-1998
	3-44	St. Stephen's College (Edmonton, Alta.)	2008-2009
	3-45	St. Thomas – Wesley United Church, (Saskatoon, Sask.)	1996-2002
	3-46	Southminster - Steinhauer UC (Edmonton, Alta.),	1999-2004
	3-47	Trinity U.C. (Vancouver, B.C.)	1997-2000

SERIES 3: RECORDS OF REGIONAL GROUPS. – 1982-2003. – 7 cm of textual records.

Series consists of minutes, correspondence and reports of regional Affirm, Friends of Affirm, and Affirm United groups, including: Affirm Halifax/Dartmouth, 1987; Affirm Montreal, 1982, 1986-1987; Toronto Affirm, 1985-1992; Toronto Friends of Affirm, 1985-1992; Toronto Affirm United, 1992-2003; Affirming Congregations Network of Hamilton Conference, 2001-2002; Affirm United Manitoba and Northwest Ontario, 1990-1998; Affirm Saskatchewan, 1982; Friends of Affirm Saskatchewan, 1986-1987; Affirm United Saskatchewan North, 1999-2000; Friends of Affirm Alberta and Northwest Conference, 1987-1988; Affirm United Alberta and Northwest Conference, 1999; and Affirm B.C., 1982-1993.

Acc. No.	Box-File	Title	Date(s)
2010.069C	2-3	Affirm Halifax/Dartmouth correspondence	1987
2010.129C	2-1	Affirm Montreal minutes and correspondence	1986-1987
2010.069C	4-1	- - - correspondence	1982
2010.069C	4-2	Toronto Affirm correspondence and posters	1985-1992
	4-3	Toronto Friends of Affirm minutes and correspondence	1985-1992
2010.129C	2-2	Toronto Affirm United minutes and correspondence	1992-2003
	2-3	Affirming Congregations Network of Hamilton Conference minutes	2001-2002
	2-4	Affirm United Manitoba and Northwest Ontario correspondence and reports	1990-1998
	2-5	Affirm Saskatchewan minutes	1982
2010.069C	2-5	Friends of Affirm – Saskatchewan correspondence	1986-1987
2010.129C	2-6	Affirm United Saskatchewan North minutes and correspondence	1999-2000
2010.069C	2-4	Friends of Affirm – Alberta and Northwest Conference minutes and correspondence	1987-1988
2010.129C	2-7	Affirm United – Alberta and Northwest Conference correspondence	1999
2010.069C	2-1	Affirm B.C. correspondence	1982-1993
2018.185C	TR-2	Manitou Conference material	