



As we embark on this journey to learn what it would mean for Emmanuel to become an Affirming congregation, we want to provide you with as much information as possible. To mark PIE Day 2022, you might consider exploring the resources in this newsletter that includes ways to read, listen, watch and reflect. It may be a lot of information to watch, read, listen to and process, so take your time! We will continue to host events at Emmanuel to enrich our learning and affirming journey.

From pieday.ca: “National Affirming/PIE Day was co-founded by Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections to set aside a special day every year to celebrate the full inclusion of LGBTQ2SIA+ people in faith communities and beyond!

This day also reminds and challenges us to continue widening our welcome to all, using the concepts of PIE Day to embody love and celebrate gender and sexual diversity in all its forms.”

The EUC Affirming Committee invites you to celebrate by reflecting on the meaning of PIE: to be Public, Intentional, and Explicit around welcoming and embracing members of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

Resources to Inform Us

So what does the bible say?

Watch a short Video: “God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships” by Matthew Vines (5 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmp6LLct-fQ>

Video: Theological Foundation for Affirmation with Austen Hartke”
Chinook Winds Region, United Church of Canada (1 hr. 40 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzAtY9XwKc8>

Listening to people's stories and lived experience is an important part of this journey of learning.

- Short doc: “**First Stories – Two Spirited**” This short documentary presents the empowering story of Rodney "Geeyo" Poucette's struggle against prejudice in the Indigenous community as a two-spirited person (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender). (6 min)

https://www.nfb.ca/film/first_stories_two_spirited/

What is it like to feel like you don't belong? How does this fit with our Christian church?

“Fish Out of Water”

This documentary seizes the issue of homosexuality and the Bible, dissecting the impact it has had on culture, politics, the LGBTQ+ community and the Christian Church as a whole. (52 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSQuO8bMNfM>

How might we live better as queer people of faith and allies?

Matthias Roberts brings together theologians, psychologists, poets, thinkers, and change makers for conversations around belief and being.

Podcast: “**Queerology: A Podcast on Belief and Being with Matthias Roberts**” Theologians, psychologists, poets, thinkers, and change makers converse about belief and being.

<https://matthiasroberts.com/queerology/>

If you would like to read more: consider the book: ***God and the Gay Christian*** by Matthew Vines

https://www.amazon.ca/God-Gay-Christian-Biblical-Relationships/dp/160142518X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2BA700HP2Q8TU&dchild=1&keywords=god+and+the+gay+christian&qid=1600990451&srefix=god+and+t he+%2Caps%2C204&sr=8-1

There a lots more resources to inform us all. Find even more resources on Pam Rocker’s (of Affirming Connections) frequently updated “Affirming Resources” Google Doc:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1viugldg3fKkJFFrSCsEV5XOdN3IYjNWI BxZi8BJf0u0/edit>

We continue at Emmanuel, as a community of faith, to explore, listen, open our hearts and minds, and talk with one another as we explore how to be a welcoming and safe spiritual home to all.

