



## Conversion Therapy

Perhaps you have heard recent media attention on the subject of conversion therapy and the potential for the City of Regina to enact a bylaw banning the practice. At a recent meeting with a wide variety of interested individuals and organizations, including Regina United Churches, it was decided that it was important to advocate for such a bylaw.

In response, Wesley Council passed a motion: **“That Wesley United Church Council supports initiatives to ban conversion therapy and tasks the Wesley Affirm Committee to lead this initiative on behalf of Wesley United Church”.**

From the United Church of Canada Social Action/Justice-initiatives:

**“Conversion therapy**—sometimes referred to as reparative or ex-gay therapy—is a dangerous and discredited practice aimed at changing a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or to reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour.”

“The United Church of Canada affirms the value and dignity of all people and rejects any therapy or practice that labels LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people as abnormal, broken, or otherwise not whole individuals. The Church strongly condemns the practice of conversion therapy or any efforts that attempt to change a person’s sexual or gender identity through treatment that is hostile to a person’s identity, unethical, spiritually and psychologically damaging, and not supported by evidence.”

Even today, some faith communities as well as others continue this inhumane treatment of members of our LGBTQ2S+ community.

Over the coming weeks it will be important to educate ourselves so that we can more effectively make our voices heard. Here are some of most frequently asked questions about conversion therapy: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/conversion-therapy#downloads>

Your Affirm Committee (The A Team)

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