

6th Annual Citywide Pride Interfaith Gathering

Hello!

I'm Connie, part of the team that is putting together an exciting event during Pride Week this August. I would love to invite you and any interested members of the Calgary Presbyterian community to join us at the 6th Annual Citywide Pride Interfaith Gathering! It's taking place on **Sunday, August 25 at 7pm,** at the <u>Calgary Unitarians</u> building.

This is a special event co-presented by the queer/faith advocacy group, <u>Affirming Connections</u>, and the Affirming Network of Faith Communities in Calgary. We've worked together for the past 5 years to make this important event as meaningful and accessible as possible.

The Citywide Pride Gathering is a celebration of our diverse faiths and identities and will proudly proclaim the message and celebrate the reality that it is possible to be queer and to be engaged and affirmed in your faith, whatever faith that is. Through uplifting local voices and interfaith collaboration, we share a spacious faith narrative that values and centers Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people. Whether someone comes from no faith tradition, or has multiple religious affinities, everyone is warmly welcomed and invited to attend.

Our 2024 theme is: **Queerfully & Wonderfully Made**. This celebrates that 2SLGBTQ+ people are created in the image of The Divine: meant to be, exactly as they are. This is especially important to us as we recognize that trans youth in Alberta and beyond are facing discriminatory policies and rhetoric. It's critical that we show our bold support for the trans community, and claim the truth, that trans people are worthy of dignity, respect, representation, and autonomy.

One of our special guests will be <u>Alex Manitopyes</u>, a non-binary Indigenous fashion designer, who will share some of their story. More special guests to come, along with local interfaith leaders, and representatives from Affirming faith communities in the Calgary area.

If you'd like to know more about what happens at Citywide Pride, you can watch this video from our 2023 event.

We hope to see you there, and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions at all.

Sincerely,

Connie Hovdebo