

# How Welcoming has our welcome been?

*Introducing*

## **Iridesce: The Living Apology Project**

*is a joint project of Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and The United Church of Canada. It is funded by Mission & Service.*

**In 1988**, the United Church of Canada affirmed that sexual orientation is not a barrier to full participation in the life and ministry of the church. These were truly historic words that were celebrated by people in our churches and beyond!



*Our Project Coordinator*

Almost 30 years later, although many consider us to be a justice-oriented church, we do not always practice the justice that we preach when it comes to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2) people.

**At General Council 42**, the church voted to support the creation of a national project of sharing and dialogue to gather stories from people affected by our 1988 decision.

## ***“We hope to learn about your experiences, and hear your stories”***

**Who is invited to share their stories?** Everyone. The whole church is invited to participate, not just LGBTQ2 people. This includes people who have attended or left a church, visited a church, volunteered, studied or worked in any United Church community of faith from 1925 to 1988 to today.

**How can I get involved?** To participate and more information please visit **iridesce.ca** or email our Project Coordinator at **livingapology@gmail.com**

## ***“We need to hear your stories from 1925 to 1988... to today”***

What was your experience in the decades leading up to 1988, and through “the Issue Years”? What is it like now?

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Maybe you are or were a member of a church or ordered ministry, and needed to remain in the closet, were outed, or were persecuted?

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Maybe you are or were an ally, friend, or family member of an LGBTQ2 person during these times. What is or was it like for you? What challenges, sacrifices or celebrations have arisen?

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Perhaps you are or were in a community that is or was discerning this issue? Maybe there was conflict? Maybe you (or someone you know) left the church as a result? How did you deal with that?

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Maybe you are or were opposed to the 1988 decision? Maybe you took steps to ensure that a welcome wasn't extended?

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Maybe your experience concerns unmet expectations around our national policy? Maybe you want to share your appreciation and celebrate! We need to hear these stories too.

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***Share your thoughts and reflections***  
(anonymously, if you wish) by emailing our Coordinator at **livingapology@gmail.com**