



Form for Accessing Funds from the Programs/Services Opportunities Budget

1 Form Usage Guidelines:

Use of this application form is for financial support of unique small projects not accommodated in or associated with current year plans, but for which significant opportunities exist if funded. The form provides a simple format for preparation and presentation to Church Council.

2 Project Area

- a Church Committee: Worship Committee
- b Chair : Jo Ann Silcox
- c December 31st, 2012
- d Requested Amount: \$ 400.00

3 Project Definition [name, rationale, when needed, outcome(s)]

**Welcoming Various Groups Well
A Workshop Series Beginning with
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities**

The cost above represents the fee paid for this workshop to be led by an outside facilitator.

We will then use the template used as a way to formulate and facilitate our own workshops in the future to focus on other minority groups.

The facilitator is Leslie Ramsay-Taylor BSW, MSW who is Program Manager at Second Base Youth Shelter and who has taught in the Social Service Worker Program at Humber College. She is an experienced facilitator of workshops about creating LGBTQ positive spaces.

Additional Information:

- As part of Council's theme of FSA being a Welcoming Church, we think that there are enough differences in various minority groups to warrant separate education and reflection about how to best attract and retain members of each group.
- We view this first workshop on issues for LGBTQ as a possible template or first step in this process to be followed by workshops or sessions on other groups of interest, such as visible minorities, people with disabilities, single parents. We believe that genuine and meaningful "welcoming" happens on several levels: person to person, community to person, community to subgroups – where all individuals feel particularly welcomed and broadly welcomed.
- Although some church members believe that we are doing enough to attract and retain LGBT members, we have not been fulfilling the recent imperative from the United Church General Council to "**Reflect on practices of inclusion and discrimination, intentionally increase expressions of welcome and opportunities for all to participate in the life of the Church, affirming the realities of all people in the sexual orientation and gender identity continuums.**" We may have become complacent in our approach to gays and lesbians rather than being proactive in welcoming them to our church.
- We think that it will be helpful to think together about how we do or do not include LGBT people in our church, how we are or are not proactive in reaching out to this population in our community, and how we do or do not affirm their realities of daily life and struggles.
- As leaders in the church, we are reaching out to you to support a **Welcome Well Workshop** with your attendance on Sat., Jan. 19, 9-noon led by an excellent facilitator, Leslie Ramsay-Taylor who is experienced in facilitating workshops on creating positive spaces for LGBTQ. Dennis Pellarin, Donna Travis, and Jo Ann Silcox attended her workshop last year on this topic and recommend her highly.
- Pass out poster about workshop and point out the 3-foci of **unconscious values vs. Awareness; Tolerance vs. Embracing; Complacency vs. Action.** The goals of the workshop are to increase our sensitivity about LGBTQ people and to develop specific actions that we can take in the future to welcome and retain them as members.

4 Project Review:

This project was already approved by Council at its June 2012 meeting.

1. Project Approval

Church Council

Date