



IRIDESCE

The Living Apology Project / *Vivre les excuses*



October 2017

Dear United Churchers,

My name is [Aaron Miechkota](#), and I'm writing as the Project Coordinator of IRIDESCE: The Living Apology Project. As you may know, at General Council 42 the Church voted to support a national project of story-sharing with people affected by the Church's 1988 decision. These stories would then help the church to discern if, and how, it might live into a possible apology to our church's lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2) people.

With inspiration, this project been named [IRIDESCE: The Living Apology Project](#). The word *iridesce* expresses a vision of infusing the colours of the rainbow flag with the love and light of God... into iridescent colours that seem to transform when seen from different perspectives. IRIDESCE is a joint project of [Affirm United](#) and [The United Church of Canada](#). It is funded by Mission & Service.

IRIDESCE is called to be... a faith-filled, collaborative journey with people of diverse genders and sexual identities and expressions, that is not just geared toward LGBTQ2 folks but that is *whole-church oriented*, through:

1. Workshops for dialogue, story-sharing and art-making
2. Worship & spirituality
3. Exploring ways to continue living into our commitment and reconciliation with LGBTQ2 people, including recommendations at the church policy level, discerned in community.

All of this work will be presented at General Council 43 (2018).

I hope to have your participation by collaborating with me to host workshop events at your church or community. Workshops will focus on storysharing about people's experiences **before** 1988, **during** "The Issue Years", and **up to** today. By working together we will adapt the workshop in ways that are relevant to the history, culture and needs of your community! Through this Project, I trust that the Spirit will guide our church, step by step, following Christ's Way toward mutually transformative friendship as ones loved and valued by God!

I invite you to learn more and download resources for your community at iridesce.ca.

Please be in touch so we can begin planning together! I would love to visit churches and communities in your Conference in the near future.

With every blessing to you,

Aaron Miechkota
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