

## Events

### Generous Space Group

Date/Time: Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm  
Location: Rundle Park (Near Family Centre) \*Weather will dictate location change to Table Top Café 10235-124St\*

Description: This is a group who meets for fun activities, conversation, fellowship, and prayer with a focus on including LGBTQ2S+ Christians and allies.

### SoulOUTing

Date/Time: Aug 11<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm  
Location: Robertson-Wesley United Church

Description: This is a safe place where LGBTQ2S+ folks and allies can explore the sacred and connect with one another. This group is interfaith focused and holds an informal way of worship, sharing, and study

### Pastors Stopping the Harm

Description: This is an online statement that is being promoted by Generous Space Ministries. It is calling all Canadian pastors and church leaders to speak up for the prevention of sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts. Please take the time to sign up, share, and promote other pastors to show their support. Search #Pastorsstoppingtheharm to sign up.

# AFFIRMING NEWS

## Resource Station

Kathy Baldock is the author of *Walking the Bridgeless Canyon: Repairing the Breach Between the Church and the LGBT community*. As a straight conservative evangelical Christian, her cultural and religious beliefs about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people had been challenged as she endured many friendships with folks who were a part of that community. This book uncovers the historical, cultural, medical, and political filters of discrimination through which the LGBT community is seen. Ten years of research, friendships, and questions, Baldock carefully constructs a timeline as she untangles the details of various influences and influencers on biblical translations and interpretations. This book is great for those who are wondering how they might enter into productive and respectful conversations about the intersection of faith and sexual orientation or gender identity. This book offers the resources and tools needed to make informed and wise, Christ-centered choices. On her website [Canyonwalkerconnections.com](http://Canyonwalkerconnections.com) there are plenty of resources, books, podcasts, discussion guides, and other links to help construct a better understanding on what the bible says about LGBT identities.



Website: Canyonwalker Connections Book: *Walking the Bridgeless Canyon*

## Milestones

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St. Albert United Church has received Canada-wide media attention as they showed their affirming presence during a St. Albert city council vote. The vote was to pass a motion that will ban Conversion Therapy in the city, which passed unanimously. Rev. Mervin Gallant and Church Member Ken Hutchinson both spoke to the councilors sharing their desire to see it banned and to show St. Albert that not all Christians are anti-LGBTQ2S+

## Contact Us

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## Question Time

1. What is the difference between Bisexual and Pansexual?

**A:** The main difference between bisexual and pansexual is the number of genders they are attracted to. In regards to bisexuality, the English prefix bi-, derived from Latin, and its Greek variant both mean "two." In regards to Pansexuality, the English prefix pan-, derived from Greek means "all." Traditionally, the term bisexual meant someone was attracted to both males and females. As we are learning and growing, we know that there are more than just male and female. Bisexuality more accurately describes folks who are attracted to two genders rather than just one. Pansexuality is a term that is used to describe people who do not have any restrictions on what gender they are attracted to. Additionally, anyone can be attracted to a Transgender person if they identify as a gender you are attracted to. You do not have to be Pansexual to find a trans person attractive.

2. What is Intersex?

**A:** Intersex is an umbrella term that refers to people who carry variations in their reproductive and sexual anatomy that differ from what's traditionally known as male or female. Some of these variations can be found in chromosomes, gonads, hormones, or genitals. Since these variations can be either external or internal, one can either know they are intersex at birth, or later in life.

## Info Bit: Conversion Therapy

Conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation to be heterosexual or gender identity to be cisgender through psychological or spiritual interventions. Conversion therapy techniques include (but are not limited to): ice-pick lobotomies, chemical castration with hormonal treatment, aversive treatments such as electric shock or nausea-inducing drugs which are administered while being presented with homoerotic stimuli, masturbation reconditioning, counseling, social skills training, psychoanalytic therapy, prayer, group support, and discipleship programs. Conversion therapy is also sometimes referred to as Reparative Therapy, Ex-Gay Therapy, Psychological Abuse, or Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE). There is virtually no reliable evidence that sexual orientation or gender identity can be changed. These practices are ineffective and harmful as it may lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, self-harm, and/or suicide. Minors are extremely vulnerable as they are often forced to undergo conversion therapy by their parents or legal guardians.

## “Preferred” Pronouns?

To call them “preferred” pronouns gives room for people to ignore the preference. Pronouns are often a much deeper part of one’s identity than just a preference. The name someone chooses to go by and their pronouns are very personal and thought through part of their identity. It is important to respect that, so just ask what their pronouns are. No need to add “preferred.”

*“Ze is a writer and wrote that book zirself. Those ideas are zirs. I like both zir and zir ideas.”*

## Tips!

Practice! Practice! Practice! - Learning a new word, language, or term does not come naturally to everyone. In order to incorporate new pronouns into your normal vocabulary, it will take time, patience and practice.

Try using different pronouns when talking about God, a pet or objects. Try in the mirror or in groups by telling stories using pronouns that you are not used to!

Whenever you are ever unsure of what pronouns someone uses - just ask!

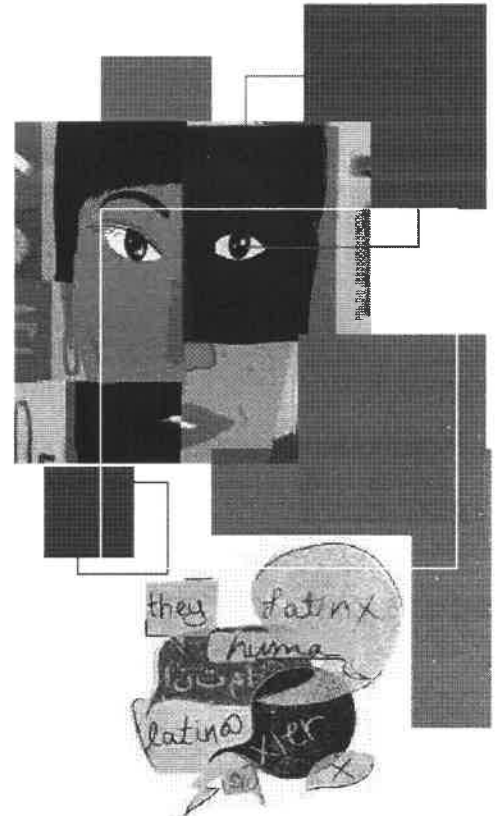
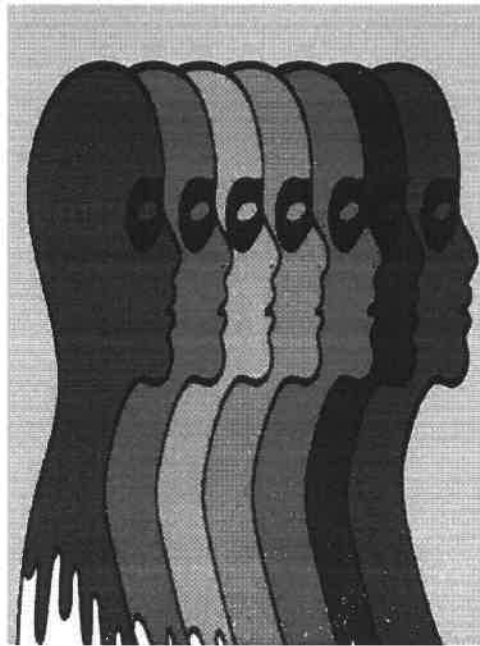
## Affirming Ministries Coordinator of Edmonton

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# Pronouns 101



## Respect & Misgendering

When someone is accidentally or intentionally referred to with the wrong pronoun (being **Misgendered** or **Misgendering**), it can make them feel disrespected, invalidated, dismissed, alienated, and/or dysphoric.

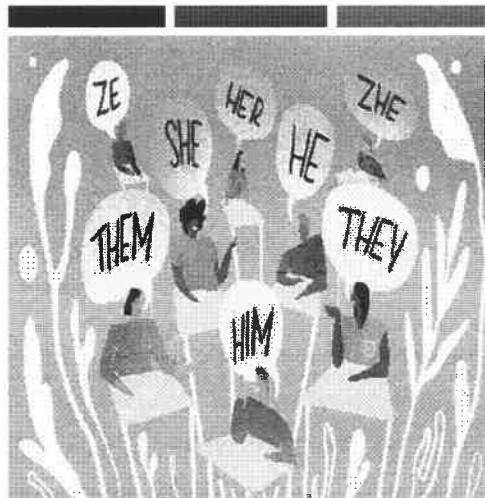
If you make a mistake: That's okay! If you use the wrong pronoun, apologize and correct it, and then move on. Avoid continually talking about how bad you feel for making the mistake because it makes the person feel like they need to console you.

If other folks use the wrong pronouns for a person, try and correct them by saying something like "Actually, Avery uses the pronouns *ze* and *zir*." It's not always easy to come out and use new pronouns, so using the right ones really is a big deal and can really help someone feel included and respected.

## What is a Pronoun?

A pronoun is any word that can replace a noun or noun phrase (*I, you, them*). Gender pronouns refer specifically to people who are being talked about (*he, she, they, ze, per, etc.*). The Pronoun "*It*" is used to denote objects, and thus is considered offensive in reference to people. Some people don't use pronouns and would like their names to be used instead (i.e. "*Mel* just left to go visit *Mel's* parents.")

Although some pronouns are considered binary (*he/she*) and others non-binary (*they/ze/per*), pronouns do not have to match a person's gender identity. Someone who identifies as non-binary may still feel comfortable using *she/her* pronouns or someone who identifies as male may use *they/them* pronouns. Some folks may be comfortable using multiple pronouns! This is why it is important to ask!



Pronouns	Subjective	Objective	Prenominal Possessive	Predicative Possessive	Reflexive
He	He laughed	I called him	His eyes gleam	That is his	He likes himself
She	She laughed	I called her	Her eyes gleam	That is hers	She likes herself
They	They laughed	I called them	Their eyes gleam	That is theirs	They like themselves
Ze/Zir	Ze laughed	I called zir	Zir eyes gleam	That is zirs	Ze likes zirself
Ze/Hir	Ze laughed	I called hir	Hir eyes gleam	That is hirs	Ze like hirself
Xe	Xe laughed	I called xem	Xir eyes gleam	That is xirs	Xe likes xerself
Synani	Ey laughed	I called em	Eir eyes gleam	That is eirs	Ey likes emself
Per	Per laughed	I called per	Per eyes gleam	That is pers	Per likes perself
Ve	Ve laughed	I called ver	Vir eyes gleam	That is vis	Ve likes verself

## Normalizing Pronouns

It is a privilege to not have to worry about which pronoun someone is going to use for you based on how they perceive your gender. Here are some ways in which you can help normalize the concept of asking & knowing pronouns;

1. You can simply ask "What pronouns do you use?" to the individual (This may feel uncomfortable at first, but most people appreciate the effort).
2. You can also ask what pronouns people use during introductions (i.e. "In a circle, please tell us your name and pronoun.")
3. Sign-in sheets, registrations, or any types of forms should have a space to put down pronouns
4. Include pronouns beside your name in your email signatures (i.e. Cheers, Taylor (He/Him))
5. Include your pronouns on any social media outlets (i.e. Account info or in your bio)
6. Include your pronouns on documents, business cards, resumes, etc. (Pretty much anywhere your name would go)