

## Recent Events:

**February 10** – Open chat on Zoom with guest Shylo Rosborough, the affirming ministries coordinator of Edmonton. Read more about him at <https://www.rwuc.org/affirmingministries/>. Shylo shared with us about his transgender journey and educated us on basic terminology and concepts relevant to the LGBTQ community. Unfortunately, we did not record this session. However, he shared a number of resources with us, which we can forward to you if you are interested.

**March 10** – Open chat on Zoom with guest Leslie Burrows (from Clifton Pastoral Charge, United Churches of Old Barns and Hilden in Nova Scotia). Leslie shared her church's affirming journey, giving us many things to consider on our own affirming journey. This session was recorded – contact the church office or the affirming team for access.

**March 13** – Saturday afternoon PIE weekend Zoom chat with guest Cam Nicholson, a transgender man. Cam shared his transgender journey and faith journey and his experiences in both non-affirming and affirming churches. This session was recorded – contact the church office or the affirming team for access.

## Coming Soon!

**April 14, Wednesday, 7 pm.** – Open Zoom chat with Pastor Gord – topic “De-weaponizing the Bible.” Bring your Bible questions about LGBTQ issues. This session will be recorded.

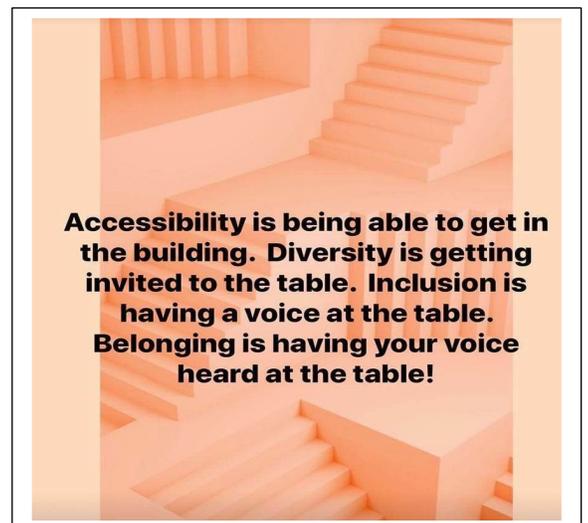
**May 12, Wednesday, 7 pm** – Eunice, Doug and Emilee Friesen are confirmed for our May session. We have some interesting guests planned for the coming months. Stay tuned.

## Other News:

**Next steps** - In our chats with Shylo and Leslie, in February and March a couple of times it came up that being an Affirming congregation is not just about welcoming and providing a safe space for members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community. It is more than that.

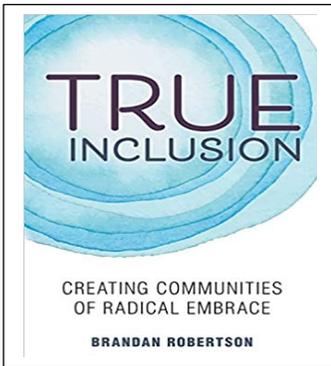
It is about providing a space for all persons to feel comfortable, safe, and considered in the small details. Coat hooks at the right height, washrooms with wheelchair accessible sinks and toilets, hearing assistance devices, and more. We have begun discussing possibilities for improving accessibility for all persons. We have been considering washroom signage, all gender washrooms, wheelchair accessibility, and more. How do we ensure we are prepared so all who come to our doors feel at home while accessing, entering and moving around our church home?

**Your input and suggestions** of things we should consider, to achieve this heightened level of inclusion and welcoming **are encouraged**. Please pass them along to any member of the team. We're hoping we'll end up with a list of small and not so small projects to work on, that will take many different skill sets to accomplish so we can all play a part.



From Our Affirming Ministry Team:

Mary Faith Blackburn, Harold Imes, Naomi Isaac, Jenny Nicholson, Karen Scott, Susan Thomson



**Book – True Inclusion: Creating Communities of Radical Embrace,** Brandan Robertson, 2018, 118 pages

This is not a lengthy read, but it challenges our thinking on what inclusion means.

Chapter titles: explaining exclusion, missing the mark, the inclusion imperative, the importance of inclusion, the problem of patriarchy, the ingredients of inclusion, and inclusion in context. An appendix provides 10 suggested actions for making true inclusion real in your context.

Available from Amazon.ca

[https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=true+inclusion+creating+communities+of+radical+embrace&i=stripbooks&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=true+inclusion+creating+communities+of+radical+embrace&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss)

Or borrow from Naomi

**Don't like to read? Here are a couple of YouTube videos with the author:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcWd4GLrLjg> –

"A Christian Case for LGBT+ Inclusion" - 35 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWudHpYQIWo>

– The Gospel of Inclusion – 20 minutes

# TALKING ABOUT GENDER TRANSITION

SCHUYLER BAILAR PINKMANTARAY

Incorrect—	Correct—
✗ He was <u>born a girl</u>	✓ <b>He was assigned female at birth</b>
✗ When he <u>was a girl</u>	✓ <b>When he presented as female</b>
✗ When he <u>was a female</u> athlete	✓ <b>When he competed as female</b>
✗ He <u>changed genders</u>	✓ <b>He transitioned</b>
✗ Before he <u>became a boy</u>	✓ <b>Before he transitioned</b>
✗ He <u>turned into a boy</u>	✓ <b>He transitioned</b>

WHY? The statements on the left imply that I was once a girl—which I was not. Although I haven't always had the words, resources, or courage to explain myself, I have always been me: a man. Even when I "looked like a girl," I was still me, a boy. That is, transition is not about changing genders; it is about shifting presentation to match the already existing identity. I did not change who I am. I did not change my gender. I just gained the vocabulary, freedom & confidence to express myself authentically.

## Around Town



[On behalf of Recovery College](#)

CMHA Edmonton is dedicated to improving the mental wellbeing of Albertans during this challenging time. **Recovery College is now accepting registrations for our spring term, which will run April- June 2021.** All courses are offered online through Zoom and are open to anyone, anywhere in the province. We have a wide variety of courses this term, including: - 7 multi-wk courses - 5 bite-sized courses (1 or 2 hours in length)

- 3 private classes- 2 for front line workers through REACH Edmonton and one for Seniors Without Walls through the Southside PCN
- a brand new, drop-in coffee chat session.
- courses specifically for seniors, for youth (16-24 yrs), for family members

I hope you will visit the website to learn more: [www.RecoveryCollegeEdmonton.ca](http://www.RecoveryCollegeEdmonton.ca)

As always, all Recovery College courses are run by two trained facilitators, one of whom has lived experience. Courses are free of charge. If people have challenges with online registration, they can call 211 to register over the phone. To attend the classes, they will need a computer / laptop / or smartphone and internet access.

Best regards, Sue Huff (she/her) Recovery College Coordinator [www.RecoveryCollegeEdmonton.ca](http://www.RecoveryCollegeEdmonton.ca)