

United Church
Grace
An Affirming Ministry



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George Mathewson, editor
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January 25, 2021

Dear Editor,

As members of The United Church of Canada and an Affirming Ministry in Sarnia-Lambton we believe that gender and sexuality are gifts from God. We welcome and seek justice for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. As Christians, we acknowledge the roles that Christianity, and religion in general, play in the oppression of LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Grace United Church supports Bill C-6. It does not support the petition presented by MP Gladu requesting amendments to or a withdrawal of Bill C-6. The practice known as conversion therapy has been shown to be profoundly detrimental to a person's wellbeing and its use is opposed by the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

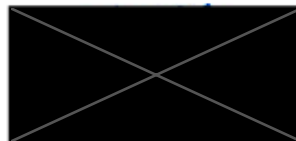
We are greatly concerned that MP Gladu stated in the House of Commons that the petition she presented was supported by the majority of the churches in Sarnia-Lambton. With only 169 signatories in a riding of over 100,000 citizens it is unlikely that the petition had majority support from any group. She did not contact our church to determine whether we supported it.

Of even greater concern is that MP Gladu was a driving force behind this petition. The letter sent to some churches in Sarnia-Lambton which accompanied the petition was sent by MP Gladu herself, on House of Commons letterhead. It appears that she is promoting her personal anti-LGBTQIA+ agenda rather than representing the constituents of Sarnia-Lambton.

Respectfully,



Barb Baxter
Chair, Affirming Committee
Grace United Church



the Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui
Pastoral Team Member
Grace United Church