

United Church  
**Grace**  
An Affirming Ministry



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January 25, 2021

Ms. Marilyn Gladu, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Gladu,

We are writing to you as representatives of Grace United Church in Sarnia. We have been made aware of a petition you presented to Parliament in December regarding amendments to Bill C-6 and which you said was supported by the majority of the 91 churches within your riding.

Grace United Church supports Bill C-6. 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. 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.

In addition to our fundamental opposition to conversion therapy and to amendments which would weaken Bill C-6, we have additional concerns, including the following:

- You did not contact Grace United to ask our position and we are aware of other churches which also were not contacted. How many churches did you contact to determine whether they supported the views expressed in the petition? Of those, how many responded with support?
- Once we became aware of the petition, we made inquiries and learned that you had sent a letter to other churches seeking their support. It is most concerning that this letter came from you personally on House of Commons letterhead. As the MP for Sarnia-Lambton, you were elected to represent all of your constituents, not to further your own personal agenda and beliefs.
- Further, to present a petition containing 169 signatures as reflecting support from a majority of the churches in the riding is misleading, unless there is significantly greater context to establish that the signatories are a representative sample which accurately reflects the church landscape.

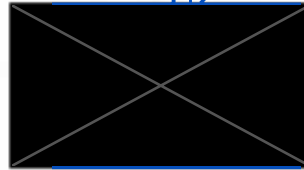
- Your use of the term “sexual confusion” can have a negative connotation when used in reference to the LGBTQ+ population. Please clarify your intent.

We would greatly appreciate a response to our questions and an opportunity to meet with you for further dialogue and discussion on this matter.

Yours in faith,



Barb Baxter  
Chair, Affirming Committee



the Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui  
Pastoral Team member

cc: the Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada