Frequently Asked Questions - A Community Open to All Who Share Our Common Journey

September 2026

What is this association?
This Canadian association helps congregations, ministries, and individuals follow Jesus Christ together — Reformational in practice, marked by action, justice and hospitality. We are united by a shared centre (Christ, Scripture, Creation, mission), not by agreement on every question

Who is welcome
Everyone who desires to share our mission and live according to our covenant: congregations and ministries; leaders, students, seekers, and retirees; people of every background, ability, and life experience; Indigenous peoples and newcomers; 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Communities that affirm same-sex marriage and those that do not are both received without contempt.

What does "mixed membership" mean?
We hold **communion without uniformity**. All congregations can belong to the same association, each practicing local discernment on marriage, leadership, and teaching.

What is the difference between association and congregational belonging?
Association belonging is covenantal participation in our shared life: gatherings, governance, mission, and mutual support. **Congregational belonging** such as who may be baptized, married, ordained, invited to teach - remains under each congregation's own discernment within the bounds of our covenant.

Who decides what? — Association vs. local responsibility

Question	**Association (required)**	**Congregation (local option)**
May 2SLGBTQIA+ people participate in association life?	**Yes — fully**	Optional
May 2SLGBTQIA+ people be treated with contempt?	**No — never**	**No — never**
May an affirming congregation belong?	**Yes**	Optional
May a traditional congregation belong?	**Yes**	Optional
Same-sex marriage in congregation?	Not required either way	**Congregation discerns**
2SLGBTQIA+ ordination/licensure in congregation?	Not required either way	**Congregation discerns**
Teaching on sexuality?	Must not express contempt	**Congregation discerns**
Expulsion for local affirming practice?	**Prohibited**	Optional
Expulsion for local traditional practice?	**Prohibited**	Optional
Must Indigenous peoples be invited and respected in association life?	**Yes — with self-determination**	N/A

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May Indigenous participants discern their own form of affiliation?	**Yes**	N/A
Is care for creation required in association life?	**Yes**	Encouraged locally; contempt for creation care prohibited in shared life

What contexts does this cover?

Association governs	**Congregation governs**
Assemblies, gatherings, governance, working groups	Worship and sacraments
Official online forums and shared communications	Local ordination and marriage policy
Ministries representing the association publicly	Teaching in local congregational context

Why not a denomination?

We are an **association**, not a denomination. Denominations typically require exclusive membership, centralized control over ordination and sacraments, and substantial time, financial, and governance obligations — burdens that can crowd out the local ministry congregations are called to do. Heavy doctrinal uniformity can also hinder the **ecumenical partnerships** we hope to encourage.

Participation here is **covenantal but non-exclusive**. Congregations and ministries may belong to this association while retaining other affiliations — with affirming networks, regional councils, ecumenical bodies, or historic denominations — as their context allows. We offer shared mission, mutual support, and accountable fellowship without replacing congregational life or asking every participant to adopt one complete ecclesial structure.

I am 2SLGBTQIA+. Will I be safe and heard here?

Yes — in association gatherings, governance, and shared ministries. Your dignity and full participation are required, not optional. Your experience in a specific congregation's worship or sacramental life depends on that congregation's local practice; inquire locally, or ask the association for help finding a fit.

I hold traditional teaching on marriage. Will I be safe and heard here?

Yes — provided you treat every person with dignity in association life and do not use association platforms to shame or campaign against affirming congregations. Faithful local traditional practice is protected, as is faithful local affirming practice.

How do I join?

Through conversation, discernment, covenant commitment, and public welcome. Congregations may begin with observer status before full affiliation.

What happens when someone breaks the covenant?

We pursue repair: direct conversation, facilitated listening, and — when needed — association response. Removal is reserved for behaviour that violates dignity and safety in shared life, not for faithful local discernment on marriage or leadership. Details: “Code of Conduct”

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