

Public | Intentional | Explicit

PIE Day

Planning your Affirming PIE Day event!

PIE is all about stories: those moments when you were Public, Intentional, and Explicit about welcoming LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people. And sometimes those stories are about moments where you wanted to be PIE, and ran into a barrier, and needed to be creative and resilient.

Some suggestions for event planning and storytelling:

Step 1: Dreaming and Planning

Whether you have a formal committee or a few passionate folks, start with a short gathering to bounce ideas around.

Things to consider as you dream:

- PIE partners: Who are your allies locally? Whose stories do you need to highlight? Who needs to be heard?
- What are some creative, safer ways of telling and absorbing those stories? Preview the media materials and the tech you'll need to show them.
- How will you create a safer space online? Make the event accessible for those who need transcription or higher volume?
- How will you use this time to hear needs and action suggestions?
- Do you have a specific topic you've been wanting to learn about or has been a cause of curiosity in your community? Dive into it!
- If you are planning a PIE worship service, remember we have free PIE service templates that you can use, just visit our website.
- What about that special guest speaker you've been dreaming about? Call them up!
- If your community needs a jumpstart, how about partnering with another organization?
- Then, plan your menu! Physical pie may or may not be possible at your event, but get creative in the ways you can have fun and be playful, that's part of what PIE is about!
- Check out the promo materials and videos that we offer at pieday.ca - we're here to help!

Step 2: Going for it!

Whether you're planning an online or in person event, let us know about your event by sharing and tagging us on social media and using our calendar sign up on the pieday.ca website.

Approach local partners with an invitation. Be clear about what you're asking them to do. Maybe there are other faith communities or organizations in your area who would love to host an event with you - even online!

Tell your local media. Media are always interested in good news stories, especially when faith communities are being Affirming and creative!

Step 3: The Big Day

Some people might hesitate to come. For many LGBTQ2SIA+ people, or their family and friends, even entering a friendly and public space can be very hard, even if it's online. Offer opportunities to have cameras or mics off if possible, and for people to pass if there are conversation questions.

Show our official PIE video, featuring your stories about being PIE. This helps to bring all of the wordy concepts to life and shows how Affirming impacts real people and ministries. Its stories are intended to inspire your stories!

Speaking of which—tell your own PIE stories! Find examples of your LGBTQ2SIA+ welcome that are Public, Intentional, and Explicit. Host a community open mic/coffeehouse/zoom session for all stories. Together, spend, say, a half hour talking about how LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit rights and dignity could be advanced in your context and community.

Action planning: What's one thing your ministry and/ or community can do? Come up with some bite sized ideas and note them down for ongoing action. Write them on the Zoom whiteboard or in a note, have an Action Wall, and/or have an open mic.

Fundraise/raise awareness for your local Pride and Queer organizations. Put the proceeds wherever you want. Please: put in a good word for Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections so that we can continue our work as well!

Step 4: Photos, Stories, & Evaluation

Once you've recovered from all the PIE, hold an evaluation and congratulating-yourself meeting. You just offered an important space for stories and sharing. YES!

Look at the Action suggestions, if you included this option. Are there some follow up pieces that are important to note and plan for? Are there action suggestions that the United Church and Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble should know about? Drop us a note

And remember, National Affirming Day is only once a year, but PIE can and should be celebrated through the year!

Inclusive Gathering Tips

- Honour the Indigenous territory you're on. Invite an Elder or knowledge keeper to be a part of your event.
- Make sure your event location is accessible to all. Don't assume that people know how to find you in person or online.
- Need to charge for your event? Make sure there's a Pay What You Can/free option.
- Designate an all-genders bathroom if you don't already have one.
- Include alternative options for those who can't eat sugary pies. Interpret "pies" and PIE Interculturally. And make sure you label all ingredients, and include halal, kosher, and gluten/dairy free options.
- Respect the Earth: don't use throwaway cutlery and plates if at all possible, and try to compost.
- Make sure you have a sound system, and require all speakers to use it all of the time.
- Check if people are okay having their photos taken, and if speakers are okay being in a video.
- Have name tags that include space for pronouns.
- Invite people to engage with drawing, not only words—cover the tables with paper and hand out crayons, or post a graffiti wall.
- Allow time for table conversations, to draw out quieter people.
- Have at least one identified person to be a listener/ accompanier, with a quiet space set aside.

Affirming PIE Day!
www.pieday.ca

