



While Eucharist has always aimed to be a place of belonging for queer people, our church practices haven't always been accessible or clear.

For many years we did not post our practices of belonging publicly, but instead encouraged queer people to message one of our pastors in order to learn more about 2SLGBTQIA+ participation within Eucharist. At the time we believed this was sufficient, and because our practices included full participation, we reasoned that queer people and their allies wouldn't mind reaching out to ask for information.

However we now recognize that this placed an undue burden on queer people (and their allies), asking them to step out in vulnerability to obtain information that should be accessible upfront.

As pastors and an elders board, we apologize for this silence, and for the ways it has harmed people who are/were, or were interested in becoming, a part of our congregation.

Through this process of listening and discernment, we have become aware of queer people who experienced hurt in our community. For that pain we are deeply sorry.

If you or someone you know was hurt within Eucharist as a result of our mistakes, we want you to know that we are very sorry. If an in-person apology or conversation, or any other concrete steps towards forgiveness and reconciliation come to mind, we'd encourage you to write either pastor or the elders board. If you'd like to do this alongside someone you consider an ally, or in some other format, we encourage you to do so. And if this all feels too personal or uncomfortable we totally understand.

Over the last ten years we have learned so much about what it means to become the Church together. We are committed to continue growing in the Spirit, so that there can truly be an open seat for everyone at Christ's table.

Kevin Makins and Jill Trites, Pastors at Eucharist Church  
Matt P, Claire P, Kelly B-H, Susan S, Sharlene C, Ryan V, Current Elders Board

If you'd like to talk further, please email any or all of the following:  
[kevin@eucharistchurch.ca](mailto:kevin@eucharistchurch.ca),  
[jill@eucharistchurch.ca](mailto:jill@eucharistchurch.ca)  
or [elders@eucharistchurch.ca](mailto:elders@eucharistchurch.ca)

Posted on [eucharistchurch.ca](http://eucharistchurch.ca), September 13, 2021