

Intercultural Lens

The United Church is committed to seeking justice and living it out. For example, we work for the full inclusion of all sexual orientations and gender identities, for racial and gender justice, and for right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

One of these commitments is the vision for becoming an intercultural church. This lens is a practical tool for engaging with our intercultural vision.

When you are reviewing a report, making a decision, or having a discussion, ask yourself the following questions:

1. What is the context?

- What are our biases? How will we address them?
- What are our cultural norms, values, or rules? Are they reflected in this report or discussion? Have we discussed them?
- Are any points of view missing? What can we do to include them?
- Have we considered systemic issues—such as racism, sexism, or ableism? How can we?
- What assumptions are we making about who and what matters?

2. Who will be affected?

- When we make a decision, how do we listen to voices that have not been fully included in the past?
- Who has an interest in the outcome of our decisions?
- Who has been invited to participate in the process?
- Whose voices are valued? Whose are undervalued?
- Whose points of view are missing? What can we do to include them?

3. How will this report, decision, or discussion increase equity?

- How does it honour the church's intercultural vision?
- How does it address differences in power?
- How does this process demonstrate fairness?
- How will we check or confirm our assumptions?
- How will this report, decision, or conversation help the church live out its commitments to justice?

To download a summary version of this intercultural lens designed for projection, visit www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/ways-becoming-intercultural-church.