# Moderator’s PIE Day Message 2023

## Transcript of Videotaped Message

Hi friends,

The Fifth Annual National Affirming/PIE Day is coming up on March 14!

PIE Day is an invitation for us to reflect on the things we can do in our communities to affirm people who have been traditionally marginalized by religion, with a focus on Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ communities. It’s also an invitation to celebrate together, and an excuse to eat pie! Apple pie, pizza pie, shepherd’s pie—all pies are welcome!

PIE is not just a delicious dessert, it’s also an acronym that stands for Public, Intentional, and Explicit, and this year’s theme is *The Year of Intention.*

What could a year of intention look like for us as we all strive to be more affirming?

As I think about this upcoming year, my intention (around Affirming issues) is to be more intentional about understanding the history of justice seeking and promoting respect for human rights on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression*.* I grew up in a household where there was acceptance and affirmation of the 2SLGBTQ communities, but that means a lot of my understanding, including my acceptance of my own sexual orientation, was implicit. This year my intention is to make that understanding explicit.

There’s so much misinformation that is spread about queer and trans folks, and drag performers, and sadly, much of it is religiously motivated. I know that it’s not enough to disagree with unhealthy theology; I also want to proclaim the gospel that I believe in, and provide another narrative around faith that doesn’t involve discrimination.

So I ask you, what could you and your community do in this Year of Intention? I encourage you to have conversations, dream big, and commit to taking another faithful step in the journey to embody the expansive love of God.

Oh, and one last intention to share…I also plan to teach my kids to bake pie! (*insert favourite pie here*)