

“By speaking the truth lovingly, we can become like Christ.”

(Ephesians 4:15, paraphrased)

100 United Years

Sang Chul Lee

In 1988, the United Church had a big meeting. They decided that anyone in the church could become a minister, including gay and lesbian people. Before this, gay and lesbian people couldn't be ministers. Many people in the church didn't believe that God loved 2SLGBTQ+ people, but some had been working for years to change this.

At the same meeting, Sang Chul Lee was chosen as the Moderator, the leader of the church. Sang Chul was a Korean Canadian. He had been born in Siberia in 1924—one year before the United Church formed! Sang Chul and his family moved a lot because of war when he was a child. It was a hard and scary time.

When Sang Chul was a teenager, he met Canadian missionaries at a Christian high school and became interested in Jesus. Later, he moved to South Korea to study to be a minister. He served in churches in South Korea and Canada. Sometimes, he preached in Korean, Japanese, and English! Sang Chul shared the Good News of Jesus with everyone.

As Moderator, Sang Chul led a church that was having a hard time. The 1988 decision that gay and lesbian people could be ministers caused many arguments in the church. Sang Chul was a calm leader who asked church members to care for each other. He talked about the church's struggles and brought peace, like Jesus calming the storm. Sang Chul said he had lived through war and danger, so he could handle church conflicts. He reminds us that God is with us in every storm.

Peace

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