# A Pride Affirmation

I believe that we are more than children of the Holy.

I believe that we are more than clay.

I believe that we are more than flesh:

Flesh that is warm and sweaty, soft and hard.

In us is embodied the soul of the Divine,

Calling us to love, embrace, and share the kiss of peace:

Statements of love.

Jesus was flesh but more than flesh:

He was the universal word incarnate,

Animated by the Holy and responding to the needs around him.

We are animated by the Holy,

We are animated by desire and attraction,

We are animated by Holy love.

When we touch it is more than desire:

It is the longing for affirming the other,

Affirming one another,

Affirming ourselves.

We are more than Pride:

We are called to be our authentic selves,

Flesh that is warm and sweaty, soft and hard,

For we are animated by Holy desire.

—by Rev. Don Uhryniw, Emmanuel United Church, Peterborough, Ont.