## International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

### Prayer of Lament

*This expression of lament and promise incorporates all five verses of the song, "Let Us Build a House"* (More Voices *1*)*. To allow the spoken and sung parts of the reflection to flow, do not announce the verses, but rather go right into singing the corresponding verse, or have the accompanist offer a brief introduction for each verse.*

We lament that churches can still be places

where many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people

do not receive messages of love,

and cannot feel safe,

and where walls of separation are held up by old wounds.

And so we call upon the Spirit's help

and pledge to offer ourselves and our church

to be sources of healing and reconciliation.

**Sing:** “Let Us Build a House” (*More Voices* 1, verse 1)

We lament that all too often,

injustices against sexual minorities go unnoticed

because the resistance to change

silences the voices

that would bring the challenge

of Christ's radical justice

firmly in our midst.

We call upon the Spirit's help

and pledge to speak raw truth,

listen from the edge of peace,

and trust in the power of Love.

**Sing: “**Let Us Build a House” (*More Voices* 1, verse 2)

We lament

that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people

all too often feel excluded from community.

We call upon the Spirit's help

and pledge, as a church,

to make Jesus' radical inclusion so clear

through all we say and do,

that every person

approaching the table or the font

knows for certain that "us" includes "me."

**Sing:** “Let Us Build a House” (*More Voices* 1, verse 3)

We lament

that while in Canada we have seen changes in laws

to protect the rights of sexual minorities,

change is slow, injustices continue,

and in some countries laws are enacted

that permit and even mandate

discrimination and persecution of sexual minorities;

and we lament the times we feel powerless

to change what happens outside the walls of the church.

We call upon the Spirit's help

and pledge, as individuals and as the Body of Christ,

to work for justice and resist oppression.

**Sing:** “Let Us Build a House” (*More Voices* 1, verse 4)

We lament

that the stories of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people

are too often not heard,

or are set apart as being unusual or somehow outside the norm.

We call upon the Spirit's help

and pledge to embrace our shared humanity

by noticing how the story of each in our midst

is part of our sacred story,

and reflects a facet of God’s image.

**Sing:** “Let Us Build a House” (*More Voices* 1, verse 5)

*Written by Thérèse Samuel, 2014*