

As a Reconciling Lutheran, I call on the Lutheran church to extend God's extravagant welcome and a genuine invitation for acceptance and full inclusion to

People of every age, class, color, and ethnic origin...
People of all sexual orientations and gender identities...
People who are single, married, divorced, separated, blessed or partnered...
People who are temporarily-able, disabled, or of differing abilities...

And I ask God, the giver of life and all creation, to guide my ways in living out the ministry of reconciliation always seeking to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ.

You can also sign the covenant online at: www.reconcilingworks.org/RL

(please keep this top portion for your reference)

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I want to be a Reconciling Lutheran!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Signature(s): _____

Congregation: _____

Please return this slip to:

ReconcilingWorks; 1669 Arcade St. N. Ste 2; St. Paul, MN 55106



RIC Sunday January 27, 2013

The ecumenical community which welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities celebrates the last Sunday of January each year as "welcoming" Sunday. In the Lutheran tradition, we call this day RIC Sunday.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is a program of ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation, begun in 1983 as a way for Lutheran communities of faith to answer the inclusive call of the Gospel by welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Currently, there are over 520 Lutheran settings on the RIC roster, including congregations, campus ministries, synods of the ELCA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, camps, colleges, and other independent organizations. Additional information about the RIC program, including a complete listing of RIC settings and resources for personal and congregational use, are available on-line at the website www.reconcilingworks.org.

"Building an Inclusive Church" Trainings are held several times each year to help folks from RIC or prospective RIC congregations learn how to work with church members to discern if a congregation wishes to "come out of the closet" about welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. If you are interested in attending such an event, check out the events listed on the website.

In addition to our Reconciling in Christ program for congregations and organizations, ReconcilingWorks offers the ability for individuals to become Reconciling Lutherans. *Whether you are a member of an RIC congregation or not*, it is important for your voice to be heard as a Reconciling Lutheran. Joining is easy and does not cost you a penny. You do not need to become a member of ReconcilingWorks to be added to the roster of Reconciling Lutherans. All you need to do is sign the Covenant of Welcome, affirming your commitment to encourage the Lutheran church to extend a genuine invitation for full acceptance and inclusion to all people. Please sign the attached covenant and return it to the church to send to ReconcilingWorks.

Just a Sampling of Recent RIC Congregations

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Fairview, North Carolina

The welcoming statement for this congregation is expressed through a graphic of a cross surrounded by a circle of multi-colored beads, anchored by the words “United in Christ. Welcoming All.” A key explains that each bead represents a category of diversity the congregation is committed to welcoming, including gender identity and sexual orientation.

Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Regina, Saskatchewan

Bread of Life celebrated their 30th anniversary as a congregation in October, 2012. They are part of a shared ministry, along with Eastside United Church of Canada and St. Philip Anglican, known as Living Spirit Centre. The three congregations share a building and a website along with many programs.

IndyVision, Indianapolis, Indiana

IndyVision is a new church-planting team focused on mission in downtown Indianapolis, making strides toward launching an ELCA-sponsored congregation in the city core. They pursued their goal of being a Reconciling In Christ community from the day their website went live.

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington

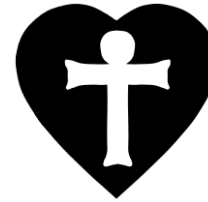
Luther Memorial came to their RIC process through the marriage equality referendum in Washington State. They already had an inclusive welcoming statement. However, their commitment to engage in the public conversation about marriage led them to see the value in the public statement of the RIC program.

Our Savior Lutheran Community, Boerne, Texas

Our Savior’s story was featured in the February 2012 issue of *The Lutheran*. This suburban San Antonio mission congregation was formed in 2010 by people who wanted to remain in the ELCA. Welcoming people of all gender identities and sexual orientations has been part of their identity since the community’s founding.

Reconciling Lutherans

is a program of ReconcilingWorks inviting all Lutherans to publicly witness to their call for a church and world that welcome and include.



All this is from God who reconciled us through Jesus Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Cor 5:18.

Data privacy: ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation cares about your privacy. We will not sell, rent, or lease any information regarding Reconciling Lutherans to any third party. In order to have a public impact in both the church and society, the list of Reconciling Lutherans is designed to be a public list. ReconcilingWorks may publish a list of names and hometowns (City, State/Province) of Reconciling Lutherans. We will not, however, publish post-office addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, or any other information. From time to time, ReconcilingWorks may contact Reconciling Lutherans with messages related to, and in support of, the mission of Reconciling Lutherans.

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As members of the body of Christ, we are called to be ministers of reconciliation both in the church and in the world. Through our baptism we are reconciled to God through the saving grace of Christ Jesus. As children of God, Christ calls us to lives of reconciliation, wholeness, integrity and authenticity. We are challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing and love within our church and society.

We affirm with the apostle Paul that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female” (Gal 3:28). Christ has made us one body with many members, equal at the foot of the cross and at Christ’s table of blessing and promise. God’s extravagant welcome is sure.