

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 26, 2014

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.

Sampling of Recent RIC Congregations

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Billings, Montana

Bethlehem's recent vote to approve its welcome statement makes it the first RIC congregation in the state of Montana. From Bethlehem Lutheran: "What has awakened here is a Spirit of welcome, invitation, and love for many people who have not found these things in other churches."

Grace Lutheran Church, Victoria, British Columbia

The newly painted rainbow flag on the steps connecting this congregation to the bus stop on Fort Street has already proven to be a conversation starter about their commitment to welcome. The congregation is recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as a Greening Congregation due to their commitment to be good stewards of creation.

Mustard Seed House Churches, Loveland, Colorado

From loaded tater discussion groups, bicycle blessings, and food drives at the local craft brewery, Mustard Seed House Churches are ever present in the Loveland community. Following Jesus' example, community service, advocacy, and accompaniment is a huge part of life at Mustard Seed House Churches. They began their worship life in October as a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community with the ELCA.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Terryville, Connecticut

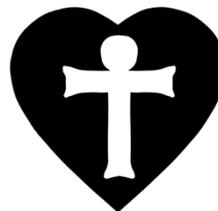
From Saint Paul Lutheran: "As children of God, Christ calls us to live lives of reconciliation, wholeness, integrity and authenticity. We are challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing and love within our church and society." Pastor Lisa Watson-Barcia said, "Many members of this small but mighty congregation have come forward to say that they are so pleased that a daughter/sister/nephew/cousin/grandchild will now be welcome."

University Lutheran Church, Gainesville, Florida

University Lutheran is the congregation that serves the University of Florida's student body. At one point in their history, they worshiped in a former fraternity house. Their welcoming church process began during their recent intentional interim period.

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.