

## Connect with ReconcilingWorks

### **BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH (BIC) 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: [www.WelcomingResources.org/CommunityOrg](http://www.WelcomingResources.org/CommunityOrg)



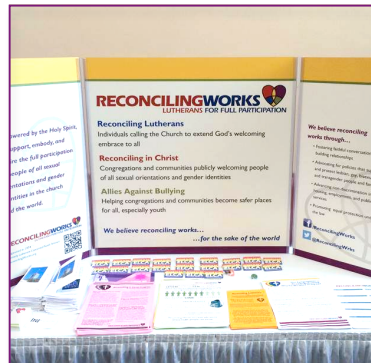
### **“UNTIL ALL ARE FREE:”**

Attend ReconcilingWorks triennial assembly “Until All Are Free” July 30th – August 2, 2015 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Join us for 4 days of learning how to deepen and expand how we make “welcome” a lived experience for LGBT people and families. For more information and to register visit [Assembly.ReconcilingWorks.org](http://Assembly.ReconcilingWorks.org)



### **SYNOD ASSEMBLIES:**

Help spread the message of full inclusion by hosting a ReconcilingWorks display table at your synod assembly. Contact ReconcilingWorks for further information and to reserve display materials.



Like us on Facebook:

[www.fb.com/ReconcilingWorks](http://www.fb.com/ReconcilingWorks)



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## Reconciling In Christ Sunday January 25, 2015



“ReconcilingWorks has and continues to open doors, tear down walls, and builds tables for full inclusion and prodigal grace for our church. I am thankful for this witness and the opportunity to be a pastor in this church.”

–Rev. Kevin Strickland

Director for Worship  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Reconciling in Christ Sunday is recognized to remember our welcome of people of all orientations and gender identities and gender expressions.

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 590 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.

ReconcilingWorks rejoices in the 590 Lutheran RIC setting, but this number represents only 5% of Lutheran congregations in the US, while 76.6% of Lutherans live in states who have the freedom to marry. ReconcilingWorks is committed to deepening and expanding our RIC program and this is where you come in. With your financial gifts we can work to increase the number of communities where LGBT people can worship and thrive!

Here is how your gift makes a difference...

**\$5 – Welcomes one new RIC congregation**

**\$20 – Creates one prospect RIC packet for a congregation**

**\$45 – Sponsors one participant to attend a Building an Inclusive Church (BIC) training**

**\$75 – Become a household member of ReconcilingWorks**

**\$100 – Helps 10 congregations begin their RIC journey**

# Welcome Recent RIC Congregations

## **Christus Rex Lutheran Center, Grand Forks, North Dakota**

A campus ministry at the University of North Dakota, Christus Rex is also the host site for the weekly UND organization TPS- Ten Percent Society. “We are called to be people of justice and peace, serving our global neighbors, living in Christ's purpose in our world.”

## **Faith Lutheran Church, Chico, California**

A mix of urban and rural, agriculture and university, Faith Lutheran is the only RIC congregation between Sacramento and Eugene, Oregon. They were pleased to serve as the host location for Chico's Trans\* Day of Remembrance memorial service this year.

## **Faith Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

Faith Lutheran is the first RIC setting in the province of Manitoba as well as the first in the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario (MNO) Synod of the ELCIC. They describe their welcoming church process as a journey in compassion, understanding and diversity.

## **Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Columbia, South Carolina**

The welcoming journey at Gethsemane Lutheran is a story of hope and perseverance. Gethsemane, returning to the RIC program after an 8 year absence, describes itself as a small, multicultural church, working to be a safe place of grace.

## **Trinity Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan**

In 1994, Trinity Lutheran began their process of discernment toward a public welcome to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The years of conversations, prayer, and education led them to join the RIC program in June, “thus ratifying the life of full inclusion that we have been living for some time.”

## **Our Vision for the Church**

Freed by God's grace, the body of Christ on earth leads a joyous dance of transformation, integrating sexuality and spirituality, justice and mercy. Through continuous reformation, the Church embraces in holiness and into wholeness people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, strengthening us for authentic, visible, faithful lives. Dedicated to radical reconciliation, the Church falls into the heart of God's passionate intent, co-creating a world without outcasts, calling all to serve as guests and hosts at God's table of blessing and power.

## **Our Mission**

Working at the intersection of oppressions, ReconcilingWorks embodies, inspires, advocates and organizes for the acceptance and full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities within the Lutheran communion and its ecumenical and global partners.

“Though we haven't been able to give at the same levels as in past years, we've continued to give to ReconcilingWorks as a witness to the abundance and real wealth we experience every day—the benevolence of our loving God, the blessings of family and friends.”



—The Persigehl – Flak Family  
Monthly Evergreen Givers