

# ReconcilingWorks

## LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



### ReconcilingWorks

## VIRTUAL PRIDE



## LET'S CELEBRATE PRIDE TOGETHER

PRIDE season is quickly approaching! This year ReconcilingWorks is excited to offer a Virtual PRIDE for everyone. In mid-May, we will be launching a webpage filled with weekly opportunities to engage with PRIDE events and support ReconcilingWorks.

Here is some of what you can look forward to:

- Videos from Reconciling in Christ (RIC) partners from around the country and Canada share their experiences and the impact of the RIC program in their ministry
- PRIDE raffle for the chance to win one of four rainbow stoles
- Two new PRIDE shirts for purchase
- Facebook Live conversations

ReconcilingWorks is looking forward to celebrating people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Amen for the diversity of God's people!

### PRIDE 2021 WORSHIP RESOURCE

One way we can celebrate PRIDE together in 2021 is in our communities of worship.

In mid-May, ReconcilingWorks will have our PRIDE 2021 Worship Resource available for faith community to use in June and beyond.

Faith communities will have access to a liturgy, a video sermon by Bishop Kevin Strickland, and a children's message by Aubrey Thonvold.

We will be emailing you when the resource is available, so keep a lookout for an email from us!

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### PRIDE 2021 WORSHIP RESOURCE



# Lutherans for BLACK LIVES

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## LIVING INTO OUR RACIAL EQUITY COMMITMENT

ReconcilingWorks continues to create and live into our Racial Equity plan. We know this is a lifelong process of unpacking, processing, be held accountable for, and transforming the white supremacy that is a part of the larger church and our organization.

Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) continue to pay the price of systemic racism with their lives. While we have seen a guilty verdict of a white police officer for the murder of George Floyd this is a step in the work of accountability and justice.

**"I would not call today's verdict justice, however, because justice implies true restoration, but it is accountability, which is the first step towards justice. And now the cause of justice is in your hands." - Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison**

One action ReconcilingWorks took in February of 2021 in honor of Black history month was to create a t-shirt fundraiser "Lutherans for Black Lives" with 100% of the proceeds going to the 66th Synod Reparation Fund for the ELCA. We have raised over \$3,500 which has been given to the fund.

People who have ordered shirts have shared with ReconcilingWorks what impact wearing their

shirts have had. Here is part of an email we received from a rostered leader.

"I received and proudly wore my charcoal gray "Lutherans for BLACK LIVES" hoodie to my congregation's work party on March 27th, to the hardware store on March 28th, and for our Good Friday prayer vigil. This is the first time I have worn this bold and necessary message; I am chagrined to say.

As the week progressed, I recognized a certain discomfort in my own gut, wondering how my new congregation would receive my sartorial advocacy. Would this put off older members? Would this particular veteran still view me favorably? When I went to the hardware store to purchase supplies to make a devotional cross, I was alert to the reactions of other customers and staff. Might someone verbally assault me?

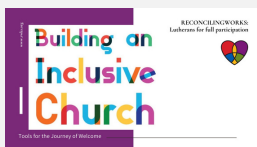
Those internal reactions were powerfully educational for me. I had the option at any moment to take off that sweatshirt. **My neighbors with darker skin don't have that option. I experienced white privilege in that moment more intensely than ever before. I was convicted of my complacency."**

- Rev. Heidi Fish

To order apparel from our six different fundraisers, check out the link below!

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/reconcilingworks/>

## UPCOMING ONLINE TRAINING DATES



### Building an Inclusive Church

May 22, 2021

September 25, 2021

October 16, 2021



### Let's Talk SOGIE

May 20, 2021

June 10, 2021

August 19, 2021

September 23, 2021

October 14, 2021



### Consent in Community Building

May 25, 2021

August 17, 2021

September 14, 2021

October 19, 2021



### Bias and Its Impact on Welcome

May 11, 2021

September 21, 2021

October 26, 2021

To learn more about these trainings and register visit

[www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/](http://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/)

# EXPANDED RIC PARTNER PUBLIC COMMITMENTS UPDATE



It has been just over 3 months since the new Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Partner public commitments were launched, and what a joy it has been. Walking alongside our 950+ RIC Partners as they discern what it means to deepen and expand their welcome statements faithfully has been affirming how this work is done through the community. Over half of the RIC partners have been contacted and provided support by staff, giving items needed for updating and resources to support in that journey. As we continue to work to connect with the remaining RIC partners, be sure to reach out to Ashlei, RIC Program Coordinator at [AshleiB@ReconcilingWorks.org](mailto:AshleiB@ReconcilingWorks.org), to check in on your faith community's progress.

*A big "Thank You" to the following RIC partners who have updated their commitments:*

Advent (North York, ON)

Burlington (Burlington, VA)

Echoes (Bellingham, WA)

Good Shepherd (Fayetteville, AR)

Lord of Light (Ann Arbor, MI)

Luther Memorial (Seattle, WA)

Jacksonville Campus Ministry (Jacksonville, FL)

Journey House Campus Ministry (River Falls, WI)

Temple (Havertown, PA)

Hope (Clinton, MD)

Grace House (Atlanta, GA)

Bethesda (Ames, IA)

### Expanded RIC Partners Public Commitments:

- Your community explicitly states a welcome to *people of "all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" or "LGBTQIA+"* and names its commitment to *racial equity or antiracism* in its welcome statement.
- *Open to calling* an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
- Will allow community space/sanctuary to be used for LGBTQIA+ *weddings and blessings*.
- Will make a *meaningful contribution annually* to support the national RIC program.