Newsletter July 2021



ReconcilingWorks is making an impact

THE IMPACT OF OUR MINISTRY

The holy ministry of ReconcilingWorks continues to make a way for the Church to deepen and expand its welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy of LGBTQIA+ people and their families. Here are two of the amazing supporters made possible!

- Staff led two workshops for over 120 ELCA ChurchWide staff on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGIE)
- Staff led a SOGIE training for young adult leaders in Palestine.

This month ReconcilingWorks staff will be spending a day in retreat planning and mapping out some new exciting plans for this Fall and beyond. We are excited to share more with you soon about how you can continue to support ReconcilingWorks, the LGBTQIA+ community, and the church.

Together we make a tremendous impact!

UPDATE ON 66TH SYNOD FUNDRAISER



Since February of 2021 ReconcilingWorks has had an online t-shirt fundraiser "Lutherans for Black Lives" with 100% of the proceeds going to the 66th Synod Reparation Fund for the ELCA.

So far your purchases have raised \$3,978.48!

ReconcilingWorks has already submitted a check for \$2,247.66 to the endowment and will be sending another check for \$1,730.82 this July.

You are still able to order a shirt or sweatshirt to support this cause!

www.bonfire.com/store/reconc ilingworks/

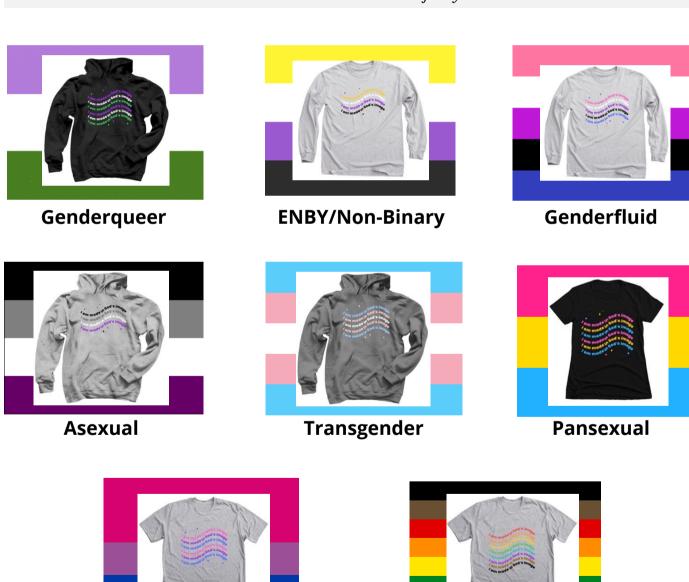
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MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE CAMPAGIN

There is a lot of exciting new resources and programs coming to ReconcilingWorks launching in the Fall. We know in order to launch these exciting new materials we will need financial support, so we have launched a new t-shirt fundraiser! The "Made In God's Image" campaign will put 100% of funds raised to support future resources, programing, and large ChurchWide events like the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and ELCA National Youth Gathering. All shirts read "I am made in God's Image" made with the colors of different PRIDE flags.

You can find these NEW shirt designs and many more at www.bonfire.com/store/reconcilingworks/

Check out all the shirts made for you!



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Bisexual

PRIDE

UPCOMING ONLINE TRAINING DATES



Building an Inclusive Church September 25, 2021 October 16, 2021



Let's Talk SOGIE

August 19, 2021 September 23, 2021 October 14, 2021



Consent in Community Building
August 17, 2021
September 14, 2021
October 19, 2021



Bias and Its Impact on Welcome September 21, 2021 October 26, 2021

To learn more about these trainings and register visit

www.reconcilingworks.org/ trainings/

EXPANDED RIC PARTNER PUBLIC COMMITMENTS UPDATE

It has been just over 6 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. All RIC partners have been contacted and provided support by staff, giving items needed for updating and resources to support in that journey. A total of 23 RIC partners have updated their statements. If your community would like additional support please email Ashlei, RIC Program Coordinator at 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 since April 2021:

Advent Lutheran Church (New York, NY)
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Rochester, MN)
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Raleigh, NC)
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Buffalo, NY)
Hope Lutheran Church (Clinton, MD)
Jacksonville Campus Ministry (Jacksonville, FL)
Journey House Campus Ministry (River Falls, WI)
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (Blacksburg, VA)
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (Seattle, WA)
The Urban (Winnipeg, MB)
Mount Olive Lutheran Church (Santa Monica, CA)
South Loop Campus Ministry (Chicago, IL)
St. James Lutheran Church (Western Springs, IL)
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Durham, NC)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Worcester, MA)

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.

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