

ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE IN A JOURNEY OF WELCOME

Early last month, I had the joy and delight of spending a week in Kansas and Missouri with the Central States Synod of the ELCA leading a time of professional development for their Rostered Leaders. The synod hosted the "Hearts Across the Heartland" training as part of their commitment to providing every Rostered Leader an opportunity to learn more about the diversity of people in their communities and congregations.

The leadership of the Synod staff and the planning team made this a time rooted in hospitality, welcome, and learning.

"We spent the day in theological reflection, graceful engagement, and hospitable curiosity as we sought to deepen and expand our awareness of how we can best see, name, and care for LGBTQIA+ people and their families in our ministry. In our time together, we learned why this conversation is important, terms and definitions, explored ways to provide thoughtful pastoral care and accompaniment, and rooted ourselves in the welcome reflected in the gospel."

Those in attendance sincerely appreciated the opportunity to grow our understanding and ability to welcome all. As a synod, we have committed to engage in this kind of learning and dialog, and as pastors, deacons, and synod-authorized ministers, we have responsibilities as leaders of the synod."

- <https://www.css-elca.org/workshops>

Being with the people of the Central States Synod reminded me how critically important the ministry of ReconcilingWorks is in the life of the Lutheran Church. My heart was filled as I listened, learned, and grew from conversations centered on curiosity about deepening and expanding the welcome of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

We are all journeying to live out the gospel message of Christ's love. I am deeply grateful to be in this ministry with each of you. Together we meet people where they are, invite them into new learning, and build our capacity to care for those around us. Thank you to each of you and how you bless ReconcilingWorks and the Lutheran Church.

-Aubrey Thonvold (she/her), Executive Director

Today is a great day to ensure ReconcilingWorks is able to continue the holy ministry of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy of LGBTQIA+ people in the Lutheran church.



How to Give

Make a gift online:

www.reconcilingworks.org/donate/

Mail in your gift:

ReconcilingWorks
P.O. Box 8070
St. Paul, MN 55108

Donor Advised Fund:

If you have a ADF you can request distributions be made to ReconcilingWorks.

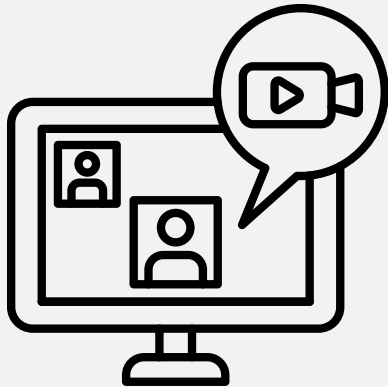
Employer Match:

If your employer offers an employee match this is a great way to give.

Helpful Information:

ReconcilingWorks IRS Tax designation: Tax exempt under IRS tax code 501 (c)(3)
IRS Tax ID: 36-3209636 Address: P.O. Box 8070
St. Paul, MN 55108
Organization type: Human Rights, Social Justice, Advocacy, Educational, Religious

REGIONAL RIC PARTNER ZOOM CALLS



To continue supporting our RIC partners in updating their RIC public commitments, ReconcilingWorks is excited to host a series of regional calls. ReconcilingWorks staff will share information on the RIC program, walk you through critical resources and where to find them on the website, and answer questions.

May 1, 2023

Region 9: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CT
Region 5: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM CT
Region 1: 3:00 – 4:00 PM CT

May 2, 2023

Region 8: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CT
Region 6: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CT
Region 2: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CT

May 3, 2023

Region 7: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CT
Region 3: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CT
Region 4: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CT
ELCIC: 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM CT

If you are someone who is assisting your community in their RIC journey, please sign up for your regional call on this online form.

<https://forms.gle/shofiK3mjHpttDUg8>



EXPANDING OUR TEAM

THREE CONTRACT POSITIONS

ReconcilingWorks is excited to be expanding our team. We accompany 1,010 Reconciling in Christ partners and over 300 communities on their journey of discernment to become RIC. We aim to provide additional support for the RIC program by adding three new contract positions.

Administration Assistant

10-15 hours per week

Lead Online Trainer

10 hours per month

Online Trainer

10 hours per month

These three positions will all be part-time contract work. Each position pays \$25 per hour. If you are someone you know is interested in applying, please send your cover letter and resume to aubreyt@reconcilingworks.org.

Job descriptions can be found at www.reconcilingworks.org under the ABOUT section and EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

T-SHIRT FUNDRAISE: LUTHERAN FOR TRANSGENDER RIGHTS



Now more than ever, voicing your support for transgender people matters! 50% of proceeds from these sales will go to support LGBTQIA+ advocacy in the Lutheran church and 50% will be gifted to Transgender organizations!

www.bonfire.com/lutheran-for-transgender-rights/



SOTRIES OF HOPE

Stories are an important part of how we share our faith. They deepen the ministry of ReconcilingWorks and ground us in the holy work of welcome we feel called to. We have been reaching out to folks like you to hear and share your story about how ReconcilingWorks and the RIC Program have impacted your life or faith community. This newsletter's "Stories of Hope" is from Cherri S. After attending the Building an Inclusive Church (BIC) training online, Cherri shares a story of hope with you today:

"I do not believe I would be a part of my congregation's RIC if it wasn't for our transgender daughter, who came out twenty months ago. As a lifelong member of the Lutheran church, I thought I was always welcoming in my words and actions. Looking back, I have found there were certainly times I did not exhibit through actions what my words were telling others. My daughter has taught me a great deal in acceptance, and I can certainly see why she currently does not feel welcome in coming to church. There is work that the congregation and I need to continue to do for the acceptance of all. My daughter has given me a second chance - this has all been with the Grace of God. I have seen our daughter become more confident and experienced increased communication with both myself and her father; unfortunately, that is something not all her friends experience with their families.

This transition with our daughter and connection with RIC, a workshop I attended last fall, and the BIC training with Ashlei have all been a blessing and a gift. I felt so incredibly welcome at the workshops through the stories and people I met. It has certainly given me an understanding that I honestly did not have to think about before. The BIC training on January 7th of this year was fantastic, and I felt so comfortable sharing my story in that space. I love the comment one of the attendees gave during the training about the Gospel being a "Gospel of second chances;" this is something I continue to reflect on.

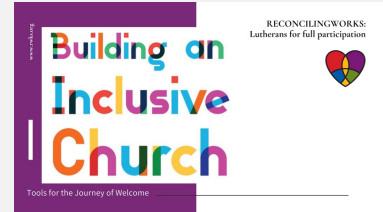
Thank you for allowing me to share my story here in whatever is best to serve others, for it is all about love and acceptance for all."

Thank you, Cherri, for sharing with us your story of hope! If others have a story they'd like to share, let ReconcilingWorks know at info@reconcilingworks.org

*ReconcilingWorks has been given consent to share stories publicly.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/



May 6, 2023
June 3, 2023
September 9, 2023
October 7, 2023
November 4, 2023



May 4, 2023
June 1, 2023
September 7, 2023
October 5, 2023
November 2, 2023



<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/consent/>



<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/bias/>



EXPANDED RIC PARTNER PUBLIC COMMITMENTS UPDATE

ReconcilingWorks 1,010 RIC partners have been hard at work updating their partner commitments, learning ways to deepen and expand welcome in their faith communities, and setting new milestones to encourage ongoing education and growth. In addition, the 294 faith communities on a journey of discernment have been accompanying their community to learn what intentional and explicitly welcome will look like in their unique and diverse contexts.

RIC Partner Public Commitment:

To be recognized as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Partner, your faith community will:

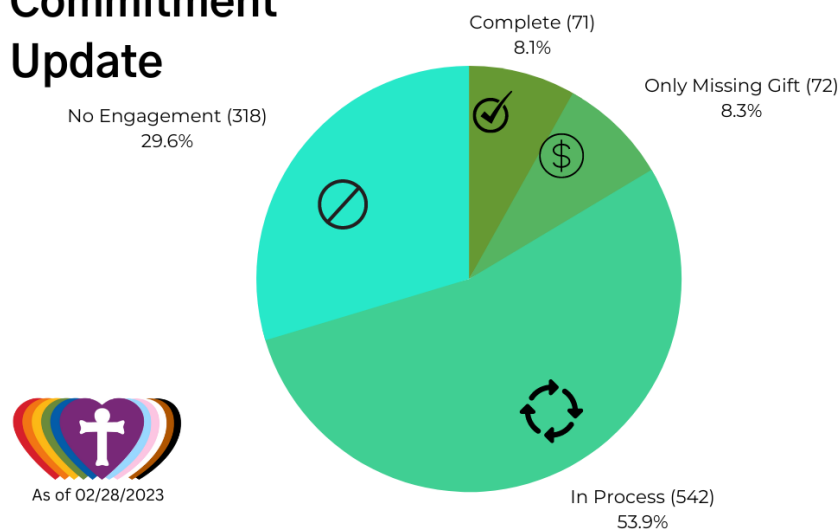
1. Explicitly state a welcome to people of "all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" or "LGBTQIA+" and name its commitment to "racial equity" or "anti-racism" in its welcome statement.
2. Be open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
3. Allow community space/sanctuary to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
4. Make a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program.

A big "Thank You" to the following RIC partners who have updated their commitments since July 2022:

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (Vancouver, WA)
Bethel Lutheran Church (Saint Louis, MO)
Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Mankato, MN)
First Lutheran Church (Galesburg, IL)
Grace Lutheran Church (Evanston, IL)
Grace Lutheran Church (Wyndmoor, PA)
House of Hope Lutheran Church (New Hope, MN)
Living Word Lutheran Church (Buda, TX)
Lord of Life Lutheran Church (Austin, TX)
Lutheran Campus Ministry – University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
Nativity Lutheran Church (Rockport, ME)
Pacific Lutheran University Campus Ministry (Tacoma, WA)
Saint Ansgar Lutheran Church (Portland, ME)
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (West Hills, CA)
St. John's Lutheran Church (Sacramento, CA)
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Cedar Rapids, IA)
St. Thomas Lutheran Church (Bloomington, IN)
Resurrection Lutheran Church (Horsham, PA)
The Table (Fullerton, CA)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Lakewood, OH)
Two Churches (Kentwood, MI)
Western Washington University – LCM (Bellingham, WA)
Wicker Park Lutheran Church (Chicago, IL)
Zion Lutheran Church (Ferndale, MI)

Below is a graph to share about where RIC partners are in meeting public commitments.

RIC Partner Commitment Update



ELCA SYNOD ASSEMBLY SEASON

Synod Assembly season is quickly approaching, and whether your local synod is gathering in person or virtually, ReconcilingWorks is here to support you having a presence!

To access our Assembly Tabling sheet, Resource Bundle, and additional resource go to,

www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/churchwide/synod-assembly-resources/

Logo Lapel Pins



Buttons



Pronoun Pins



www.reconcilingworks.org/purchase/

CELEBRATING NEW RIC PARTNERS

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church (Budd Lake, NJ)
All Saints Lutheran Church (Bowie, MD)
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church (San Antonio, TX)
Christ Lutheran Church (Federal Way, WA)
Excellence in Leadership (Denver, CO)
First Evangelical Lutheran Church (Tulsa, OK)
First Lutheran Church (Poulsbo, WA)
First Lutheran Church (Waltham, MA)
Glenwood Lutheran Church (Toledo, OH)
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Winnipeg, MB)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (King of Prussia, PA)
Grace Lutheran Church (Miami Springs, FL)
Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church (Muskegon, MI)
HouMin – Houston Area Campus Ministries ELCA (Houston, TX)
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Missoula, MT)
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Viroqua, WI)
Living Faith Lutheran Church (Pembroke Pines, FL)
Mount Hope Lutheran Church (West Allis, WI)
Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Sun Prairie, WI)
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Hot Springs, AR)
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Roseville, MN)
Public Witness Team for Peace and Justice (Argyle, TX)
Queen Anne Lutheran Church (Seattle, WA)
Saint John's Lutheran Church (Philadelphia, PA)
Saint John's Lutheran Church (Summit, NJ)
Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church (Sierra Vista, AZ)
Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp (Fort Collins, CO)
St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Vancouver, WA)
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (Columbia, MO)
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (Ridgefield, CT)
St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows (Tacoma, WA)
St. Michael Lutheran Church (Wellington, FL)
Trinity Anglican + Lutheran Church (Port Alberni, BC)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Fort Collins, CO)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Hobbs, NM)
United in Christ Lutheran Church (Lewisburg, PA)
Zion – Ministries Under the Cross (Deerfield Beach, FL)

Thank you to our Reconciling in Christ partners for your ministry and witness in the church and world. Together we make a difference!

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING
RECONCILINGWORKS**