

ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



LOOKING AT ALL 2021 HOLDS

As we enter into 2021 my heart is filled with gratitude and hope. 2020 was a year filled with hardship, grief, fear, and yet the goodness of God’s people continued to burst forth with acts of compassion, love, and generosity. The ministry of ReconcilingWorks is directly impacted by you, beloved people of God, and the goodness you share with those around you.

2021 holds new and exciting opportunities and partnerships for ReconcilingWorks and our Reconciling in Christ partners. The need for the ministry of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for the intersectional identities of LGBTQIA+ people has deepened and expanded. This expansion has required ReconcilingWorks to see clarity and vision of how we continue to transform the support and accompaniment we provide to those within our network. This newsletter will highlight just a few of these updates.

It is a blessing to be in this ministry alongside you. Thank you for all you do!

Aubrey Thonvold
Executive Director *Aubrey Thonvold*

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY 2021

This year, Coming Together Building Community is the theme for RIC Sunday 2021.

We focus this RIC Sunday by asking the question, "How do we, the church, come together and build community, to express the fullness of God's diversity?" It is a service to turn us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and racism, and to live for Christ and serve our neighbor.

Download this FREE resource at:

www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/ricsunday/





LAUNCH OF NEW NATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

As the Reconciling in Christ community continues to expand with an average of 100 new RIC partners every year, ReconcilingWorks has an ever-increasing need to innovate the ways we support and accompany those who are RIC and those on their journey of discernment. ReconcilingWorks is pleased to announce the launch of our NEW National Volunteers Program.



A **ReconcilingWorks Ambassador** will work in partnership with the national office staff in supporting faith communities in their RIC journey. An ambassador helps create relationships within the network of the program, supporting faith communities to engage in the RIC journey and the resources available to them.



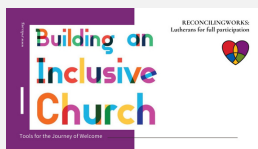
A **ReconcilingWorks Co-Facilitator** will work in partnership with the national office staff in facilitating trainings that raising awareness and support of ReconcilingWorks and the RIC program. A co-facilitator will create opportunities for engagement in the holy ministry of welcome, inclusion, and celebration of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

Applications will be open from January 15, 2021, and end February 28, 2021.

If you are interested in applying to be either a ReconcilingWorks Ambassador or Co-Facilitator and would like more information visit.

www.reconcilingworks.org/leadership/volunteers

UP & COMING ONLINE TRAINING DATES



Building an Inclusive Church

January 9, 2021
January 23, 2021
February 27, 2021
April 17, 2021
May 22, 2021



Let's Talk SOGIE

January 7, 2021
January 21, 2021
February 25, 2021
April 15, 2021
May 20, 2021



Consent in Community Building

January 26, 2021
March 2, 2021
May 25, 2021



Bias and its Impact on Welcome

January 12, 2021
February 9, 2021
May 11, 2021

To learn more about these trainings and register visit

www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/



DEEPENING & EXPANDING OUR RIC COMMITMENTS

Since 1988, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church. The RIC Program is made up of congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, outdoor ministries, and other Lutheran organizations. Every ministry setting begins this journey from its own unique context and ReconcilingWorks is here to help you create an authentic welcome journey that is customized to your community.

The purpose of the RIC Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work, and support the national program.

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.

Now is an important time for our RIC partners to review their Welcome Statement, make updates to meet the new expanded public commitments, and set new goals and milestones of justice work for your community to strive for.