

Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team



“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Ministry Team has been working for over two years on studying ways we, as a congregation, can become more welcoming to all people and more specifically to the LGTBQ (lesbian, gay, trans, bisexual, and queer) community. We have learned a lot together and are continuing to move forward in guiding our congregation towards becoming an RIC congregation. From now until the end of the year, we will provide educational and discussion opportunities for the congregation. In January 2021 we hope to draft a welcoming statement and conduct a survey of the congregation about its acceptance. If it is widely approved, we will have a vote at the 2021 congregational meeting. And if passed, we will celebrate!

Testimonials

- + [Pastor Adam Schulz](#), Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lexington, VA
- + Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team members - [Janet Gomez](#), [Pete Liljeberg](#) and [Betsy Liljeberg](#) with others coming soon.

Timeline

September 2018	Congregation Council approved formation of the RIC Ministry Team
October 2018	Formed the RIC Ministry Team with interested individuals
November 2018	RIC Ministry Team began work on Reconciling Works Toolkit, “Building an Inclusive Church”
January 2019	RIC Ministry Team made a presentation about RIC at the Annual Congregational Meeting
February 2019	RIC Ministry Team started “one-on-one” conversations with the congregation
April 2019	RIC Ministry Team completed congregational assessment survey (result - St. Cautious)
July 2019	Pastor Sandy Wisco, retired ELCA Pastor, made a presentation on RIC during fellowship hour
November 2019	RIC Ministry Team attended RIC training in Baltimore, Maryland
January 2020	(1) RIC Ministry Team members made a presentation at the Annual Congregational Meeting; (2) added RIC prayers to prayers of intercession once a month
March-September 2020	COVID-19 - RIC Ministry Team on hold
September 21, 2020	RIC Ministry Team met with Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director of Reconciling Works
October 7, 2020	Congregation Council approved addition of a RIC webpage to Apostles website
November 29, 2020	Discussion Group - “Consent in Building Community” (after 9:30 AM worship)

December 13, 2020	Discussion Group - Clunky Question Panel Discussions
January 2, 2021	RIC Welcome Statement drafted
January 15, 2021	Draft Welcome Statement mailed to congregation
January 17, 2021	Discussion Group - Clunky Question Panel Discussions
January 24, 2021	Input requested from congregation on proposed Welcome Statement
January 31, 2021	Present RIC Welcome Statement for congregational approval at Annual Congregation Meeting
March 8, 2021	Congregation Council votes approval of Welcoming Statement and to call a special congregation meeting so the Apostles membership can vote on whether to declare Apostles Lutheran Church to be a RIC congregation.
March 14, 2021	Discussion Group - RIC and Scripture
March 28, 2021	Special Congregational Meeting on RIC
April 2021 ongoing	- Monthly Discussion Groups. The Welcome Journey continues (it never stops!)
April 2021 ongoing	- Ministry Teams envision ways to be welcoming (agenda item on every ministry team meeting agenda)