

# REPORT: Becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Faith Community

**INTRODUCTION:** “The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Journey can begin with simply one person who desires to specifically welcome LGBTQIA+ people into their midst. Each congregation that lives out the RIC Journey, does so in a way that is unique and authentic to their community. By engaging in a welcoming process, the faith life of the community deepens. As members participate in dialogue with one another, they practice putting their faith into speech and then action, creating a more vibrant spiritual community. Reconciling in Christ congregations are sources of hope and support to many LGBTQIA+ folks, families, and friends as they provide safe worshiping spaces and a place where ALL can grow in faith and in community.” ([ReconcilingWorks.org](http://ReconcilingWorks.org)) Note that RIC has expanded to encompass racial equity/anti-racism and any other “ism” that often divides God’s creation.

## REQUIREMENT: Agree to and support 4 RIC Statements:

1. **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 "anti-racism" in its welcome statement.
2. **Open to calling to ministry** an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
3. **Will allow community space/sanctuary to be used** for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
4. **Will make a meaningful contribution annually** to support the national RIC program.\*

\* *Per discussion with RIC, some churches give \$0 or as little as \$25 per year. Money isn't their goal, but rather a groundswell of support for all traditionally marginalized populations.*

## DRAFT WELCOME STATEMENT

Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God’s love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

### If Affirmed by Congregation, then:

Council will determine a monetary commitment (amount and source of funds) as well as methods of expressing our Welcome Statement (website, bulletins, sign, flag, etc.).

### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION TO CONGREGATION:

Based on leader and member requests, Council began revisiting our effort to become a Reconciling in Christ Community. During the October 10, 2021 Council Meeting, leadership agreed to recommend to the whole Congregation that we agree to the following:

- 1) **Formally Accept and Support the 4 RIC Statements; and**
- 2) **Accept and Publish the corresponding Welcome Statement.**

Leadership requests from the Congregation motions reflecting the above. After each motion has been made and seconded, we will discuss (per Robert’s Rules), then request a Congregation vote.