

ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



The Reconciling in Christ Team a group of members (primarily: Suzanne Terry, Celene Welch, Nathan Graham, Chris Clarkson, and Pastor John Bell). We have been meeting over the last year, asked by the Congregation Council to explore whether it is time for Christ The Servant Lutheran church to be formally recognized as a 'Reconciling in Christ' (RIC) church. An RIC church is one that proclaims itself to be welcoming and inclusive to people of all sexual orientations (LGBTQIA+ people).

As we continue on this journey, we will be hosting conversation with all members so we reach an answer to whether we, as a body of believers, wish to become an RIC congregation. This is a significant decision. A decision which will flow from the faith we have. This faith is grounded in the Biblical story

Perhaps, in the council minutes, you have heard about a group of Christ the Servant members who are and have been meeting in exploration of whether our church can become a 'Reconciling in Christ' (RIC) church.

Or perhaps you have noticed in the bulletin this group's meeting times and have wondered what RIC (Reconciling in Christ) is about.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is about building an Inclusive Church. Specifically RIC seeks to help our faith community welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. The intentional, formal and purposeful designation of a faith community as a 'Reconciling in Christ' congregation is a pro-active step which gives witness to the measure of welcome, in Christ, we as Christ the Servant Lutheran Church possess.

The primary goal of this RIC team is to build relationships between and beyond our church community. We all know our wel-

come statement and we all know that words on a page merit a graceful engagement of those words in deeds of action.

The RIC team, over the next few months, seeks to gracefully meet, listen, and explore whether Christ the Servant is ready to embark upon the journey of becoming a 'Reconciling in Christ' congregation. This meeting, listening and exploring will include everyone. We want your input, your stories, your engagement.

We want to thank you ahead of time. We trust that as we meet, as we listen, as we explore, that the relationships present here in Christ's name, will only deepen, grow and widen.

If you have a comment or a question please feel free to present it to a team member. They will be sure to bring it to our next meeting.

Pastor Bell, Nathan Graham, Celene Welch, Suzanne Terry, Chris Clarkson