

## RIC Involvement at Gloria Dei since 2000

In May, 2000, Gloria Dei voted to become a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. What events have occurred to further our work in RIC-related projects and in our overall efforts in welcoming gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people?

- Added “We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation” to the Guide. Added Welcoming Statement to the weekly bulletin.
- Offered “How to Talk to Your Kids About RIC,” spring, 2000.
- Added Lutherans Concerned’s RIC brochure to New Member packets.
- Offered “Claiming the Promise” Bible Study – 7 session class, summer, 2000.
- Formally received RIC certificate in worship, fall, 2000. Copied certificate so that 3 copies could be framed and hung in prominent locations in church.
- Commissioned large outdoor RIC banner to hang with Gloria Dei’s sign.
- Hosted St. Paul & Minneapolis synodical event, “Walking the Talk of Welcome,” fall, 2000.
- Sent pastors and lay persons as representatives to other congregations’ deliberations regarding RIC, blessings, etc.
- Observed World AIDS Day, each December– distributed ribbons, etc. Two part Adult Forum in December, 2001 (including World AIDS Day) addressing AIDS in Africa.
- Observed “RIC Sunday,” January, 2001, & February 2002, with announcement in bulletin, prayers, etc.
- Discussion of Boy Scouts of America policy regarding gay leaders at Hot Topics, December, 2000.
- Established a Building Use Policy, April, 2001, after debate in Welcoming Community Team, specifically in light of the Boy Scouts of America use of Gloria Dei.
- Collected a special offering to be given at 2001 National RIC Conference, carried by two of our members who attended.
- Held discussions regarding Anita Hill’s ordination at Welcoming Community Team, staff, Council, and through Hot Topics. Members of congregation served as ushers and helped in events (pie baking!) surrounding the ordination. We offered public prayers for Anita & St. Paul Reformation on weekend of her ordination, April, 2001.
- Joined with other RIC congregations in area wide advertising efforts, in 2001 and 2002.
- Participated in Gay Pride weekend, 2001, – involvement with other RIC congregations, prepared baskets for raffle drawing, staffed the booth, supplied the tent, encouraged involvement of the congregation.
- Adult Forum on 2/10/02 regarding RIC, “What do You Say When Someone You Love Says, ‘I’m Gay’?”

- Congregational meeting 2/02 resolution to "faithfully and intensely engage in discussion about offering services of marriage and blessings for all members of our congregation, regardless of their sexual orientation."\*
- Operation Respect: Don't Laugh at Me taught in Sunday School, spring 2002.
- "All Kinds of Families" portrait display. "That's a Family" Adult Forum, May, 2002 during Dedication Festival.
- "For All the Saints" Stole Project on display during Dedication Festival, May, 2002.
- "That's a Family" video night discussions for families and children, summer, 2002.
- 3 Adult Forums in Fall, 2002, using the *Implications Wheel* to discuss the implications of offering blessings of same sex couples.\*
- *Marriage/Blessings Vocabulary* in Adult Forum. Pastor Susan. November, 2002.\*
- Joined with other congregations in supporting community gatherings for GLBT persons, ("Space Available.") 12/02, and 5/03.
- Small Groups gather to discuss opinions and implications of blessings, January – February, 2003.\*
- 2/9/03 Adult Forum – Panel discussion; Timothy & Patrick, and their families share their stories, February, 2003.\*
- Spring, '03: Bishop Peter Rogness attends Congregation Council, and specifically addresses Council's proposed resolution regarding blessings. \*
- 3/30/03—Adult Forum: Bishop Peter Rogness—The bishop of the St. Paul Area Synod visits Gloria Dei, bringing us a "state of the synod" address, and discusses the council's recommendation.\*
- 4/27/03 Congregational Town Meeting—Congregation Council leads an open discussion in preparation for the following Sunday's semi-annual meeting of the congregation. ["We have spent over a year in discussion regarding whether we will vote to allow marriages or blessings for all people regardless of sexual orientation. Come to discuss the proposed resolution, and help us discern whether we have reached consensus as a community."]\*
- 5/4/03 Resolution passes affirming pastors in pastoral decisions regarding blessings for all people regardless of sexual orientation, May, 2003. \*
- RIC Mentoring – sharing experiences and journeys, with St. John's, Des Moines, summer 2003.
- Summer, '03: Fred Phelps identifies Gloria Dei as a congregation at which he will lead a protest on August 3, 2003. Congregation council, staff, and leaders inform congregation and prepare for a safe, informed, and faithful worship service. Many guests and visitors come in support of Gloria Dei's welcoming statement.
- Involvement at several levels at *Gather Us In*, Augsburg College, July, 2004: workshop regarding Implications Wheel, panel discussions, hosting the "Green Room", etc.
- Lutherans Concerned Twin Cities (LC/TC) hosts an art show spring, 2005, at Gloria Dei. The show's theme is "Here we stand, we can do no other." Its purpose is to promote the work of LC/TC, the ECP

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\* Refer specifically to conversations or events regarding Blessing of all unions, regardless of gender.

(Extraordinary Candidacy Project), or Good Soil ([www.goodsoil.org](http://www.goodsoil.org)), as well as to lift up personal stories of GLBT Lutherans, and their struggle to remain Lutheran.

- Gloria Dei hosts LC/TC Pride Worship Service scheduled for June 17, 2005, also at Gloria Dei.
- Gift to *One Voice* campaign.
- Gloria Dei observes Reconciling in Christ Sunday. 1/22/06.
- Twin Cities Metro Area Reconciling In Christ Worship -- Prayer in a Time of Trial: Gathering for the Meal That Gathers Us All, January 21, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
- RIC Mentoring – sharing resources with Minnehaha United Methodist church, spring, 2007.