

Examples of RIC Welcome Statements

Gethsemane Lutheran Church (Chalmette, LA):

Rejoicing in God's abundant grace, we at Gethsemane Lutheran Church extend a special welcome to all in a world that is all too often an unloving and unwelcoming place. We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, politics, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Treehouse Ministries (Campus Ministry for Texas A&M and Blinn Colleges):

At Treehouse, we celebrate that each person is of sacred worth. We embrace all people, affirming the gifts of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and faith. We are a community that is committed to working for racial equality and equality for all. No matter where you are on your journey, and regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status you are welcome here.

Wartburg Theological Seminary (Dubuque, IA):

As a Reconciling in Christ seminary, Wartburg seeks to offer hospitality and welcome to all who enter our academic programs. Following Jesus Christ, whose reconciling love bridged barriers and made strangers friends, we seek to welcome and learn from one another's particularity-including but not limited to one another's race, national or ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical ability, social status and theological diversity.

Rocky Mountain Synod:

We as the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA welcome all into the fullness of God's love. This welcome is inclusive of people of every race, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical or mental ability, sex, or station in life. Rather than using our differences to divide us, we pledge to use our differences as gifts for our work together.

Celebration Lutheran Church (Cypress, TX):

Celebration is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. This means we welcome, affirm, and celebrate people and households of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in every part of our life as church together. We recognize the wonderful blessings that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) people contribute through gifts for hospitality, teaching, administration, service, leadership, music, and ministry, and support the expression and development of these gifts within our community and the larger church.

The Order of Lutheran Franciscans:

The Order of Lutheran Franciscans invites all members of the ELCA to inquire and discern the Franciscan way of life within this community, including those of any race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, socio-economic status, education level, or physical abilities. The Order is also committed to the work of dismantling racism in all its forms.

Kindred (Houston, TX):

Kids are welcome and grandparents are welcome. You and your same-sex partner are welcome. If you have never been to church before, you are welcome. Whether you live in a high-rise condo or on the street, you are welcome. We are a “Reconciling in Christ” community - a formal way of saying that people of all races, genders, gender identities, abilities, sexual orientations, fashion sense, and political leanings are not only welcome, but embraced.

Northwest Washington Synod:

The council and leadership of the Northwest Washington Synod affirms that all people are beloved children of God. We welcome people of all sexual orientations, genders, abilities, races, nationalities, economic statuses, and backgrounds, to join in the life of our community. We welcome all because God welcomes all and we recognize that our differences are gifts to our communal life. As Christians in the Lutheran tradition, we recognize that we are all saints and sinners and we are works in progress towards authentic diversity. As such, we commit ourselves to confession, repentance, study, and action on issues of sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, disability, economics, and other issues that can create division where we seek community. We encourage our member congregations to engage in similar conversations, including discussion of becoming Reconciling in Christ Congregations.

HouMin (Houston Area Campus Ministry):

At HouMin we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you. God’s boundless inclusivity embraces all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and will reflect our commitment to anti-racism and racial equity. You embody the expansiveness of the human (HouMin) experience and have a place here.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

We, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA, rooted in Jesus’ gospel of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, welcome all into fellowship and community. This welcome includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in society inclusive of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, racial and ethnic backgrounds, physical and mental abilities, and stations in life. As God’s beloved, we are guided by the Holy Spirit, committed to the work of racial equity, and called to the pursuit of justice throughout our communities. We encourage all of our congregations to engage in this work of the gospel, creating safe spaces for all people to bravely be their full selves. We celebrate and affirm all of God’s children just as they are with all of their differences and gifts.

For more examples, visit www.reconcilingworks.org.