



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

What Becoming Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Would Mean for the Gulf Coast Synod

If the 2023 Gulf Coast Synod Assembly votes to become Reconciling in Christ, it would mean:

A WELCOME STATEMENT

A Welcome Statement would be approved that explicitly states that the Gulf Coast Synod, as a separate but interdependent expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, welcomes, seeks to include, and desires to celebrate LGBTQIA persons and their families. This Welcome Statement would also commit the Gulf Coast Synod to its ongoing work of anti-racism in all its forms.

LEADERSHIP

The Gulf Coast Synod would continue to authorize and affirm the synod's LGBTQIA Coalition and Anti-Racism Team. This Coalition would provide leadership, guidance, resources and counsel to the Bishop, synod staff, synod council, and congregations and rostered ministers in the Gulf Coast Synod, specifically with regard to LGBTQIA-related issues. The Anti-Racism Team would provide leadership, guidance, and resources with regard to the work of anti-racism.

EDUCATION

The Gulf Coast Synod's website would continue to develop and expand resources for education and support for LGBTQIA issues, as well as the work of anti-racism.

POLICIES

The Gulf Coast Synod would review and clarify employment and personnel policies to ensure they do not discriminate based on race, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Policies for rostered ministers to participate in boundaries trainings, diversity trainings, and anti-racism trainings would be developed. Synod teams and committees would be expected to ensure LGBTQIA representation and racial and ethnic diversity.

ADVOCACY

The Gulf Coast Synod would become a stronger voice of advocacy for LGBTQIA issues and concerns, and would continue its investment in public advocacy for the work of anti-racism.

CANDIDACY AND MOBILITY

The Candidacy Committee would create protocols to welcome and protect LGBTQIA individuals and Persons of Color as they navigate the candidacy process. The synod staff would encourage and work with congregations and ministries open to calling LGBTQIA individuals and ministers of color as pastors and deacons. However, congregations ultimately extend the call to their own pastors and deacons.

MISSION

The Mission Table would include in its priorities for new missions and redevelopments those projects committed to expanding ministry with and among LGBTQIA communities and communities of color.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

The Gulf Coast Synod would create a fund in its budget to provide resources and support to congregations, as well as to ReconcilingWorks.

For more information visit www.reconcilingworks.org.