

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin 2023 Assembly Resolution

Updating Reconciling in Christ Commitments

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- 2 Whereas the Reconciling in Christ program, administered by the organization
3 ReconcilingWorks, exists to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for
4 all people, most particularly those who have historically suffered exclusion or
5 condemnation from the church; and
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- 7 Whereas the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin became a Reconciling in Christ synod in
8 2017 with the synod assembly's adoption of a Welcome Statement: "Following Jesus,
9 who commanded his followers: 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one
10 another,' and believing that all persons are created in the image of God, the South-
11 Central Synod of Wisconsin strives to be fully inclusive for all. This synod welcomes
12 people of every race, background, age, political affiliation, economic and social status,
13 sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and mental and physical ability and
14 strives to enable all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its
15 expressions;" and
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- 17 Whereas, after the death of George Floyd in 2020 and a broader awakening to racial
18 inequities, ReconcilingWorks called upon RIC partners to deepen and expand their
19 public commitments to the intersecting identities of our LGBTQIA+ siblings, particularly
20 concerning race and ethnicity; and
21
- 22 Whereas, ReconcilingWorks called for the following updated commitments from
23 Reconciling in Christ congregations, synods, and other partners by 2025:
- 24 · to name a commitment to racial equity or antiracism in Welcome Statements
 - 25 · to be open to calling Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered
26 Leaders
 - 27 · to facilitate LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings
 - 28 · to make a meaningful annual contribution to support the national RIC program;
29 therefore, be it
30
- 31 **RESOLVED** that this synod use the coming year to understand how we can faithfully
32 update our commitments through workshops, conversations, and communications
33 facilitated by the synod Reconciling in Christ team and in consultation with the Racial
34 Equity team; and be it further
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- 36 **RESOLVED** that we strive to affirm the updated Reconciling in Christ commitments with
37 the 2024 synod assembly; and be it finally
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- 39 **RESOLVED** that the synod Reconciling in Christ and Racial Equity teams assist our

40 Reconciling in Christ congregations in updating their own commitments, as well as
41 assisting those looking to become Reconciling in Christ congregations.

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43 Submitted by

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46 the Rev. Karen Locken, Peace, Waunakee

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49 the Rev. Lisa Nelson, St. Mark's, Madison

50 the Rev. Brad Pohlman, Luther Memorial, Madison

51 the Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong, United in Christ, Morrisonville

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60 *Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption.*