

## Brief Timeline of Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Activities at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church (2001-present)

- 2001 – Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA) conference at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis was attended by Julie O'Donnell and Pastor Kelly Lewis. Then, Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, Rev. Mark S. Hanson was also present at this event.
- September 12, 2006 – Council initiates conversation about the ministry opportunities of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program at GA-Church.
- November 14, 2006 – Council approves organizing an RIC Task Force.
- December 12, 2006 – Four (4) task forces for 2007 were identified by the Council – one of the task force groups was RIC. Tom and Terry Watts were identified as contact persons for the RIC Task Force.
- January – April 2007 – the RIC Task Force organizes; interested members included Vi Dormsgaard, Amy Huble, Julie O'Donnell, Terry Watts, Tom Watts.
- March 14, 2007 – RIC Task Force hosts one Lenten Soup Supper.
- March 24, 2007 – RIC Task Force members attend *Walking the Talk of Welcome, a Joint Synod Committee for Inclusively* and LC/NA event. Both Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod-Rev. Peter Rogness and Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod-Rev. Craig Johnson, were in attendance at this event.
- April-August 2007 – LC/NA representative met monthly with the RIC Task Force
- September 11, 2007 – endorsement from the Council that the RIC Task Force continue
- September 20, 2007 – Council President, Mary Larson and Pastor Stefan Rickman attend an RIC information event.
- October 1, 2007 – Terry and Tom Watts resign from the RIC Task Force and leadership.
- October 9, 2007 – directive from the Council to continue with the education aspect of RIC and invite additional members to the Task Force.
- October 2007 – Congregational survey samples were obtained from a LC/NA representative
- November-December 2007 – RIC Task Force member, Julie O'Donnell consented to serve as an RIC contact person after the Watts' resigned. Julie gathered and shared printed information and other resources from LC/NA to keep educational aspects of RIC before the congregation.
- January-February 2008 – additional RIC Task Force members join Julie O'Donnell and Pastor Stefan Rickman. A full listing of current RIC Task Force members is included on the second side of the Council letter from Gary S. Anderson.
- February 17 & 24 and March 2 & 9, 2008 – surveys were included in the weekly bulletins. The survey results were reported in the May 2008 *GA Gazette*. A copy of the May 2008 *Gazette* article is included on the lavender sheet.
- April 10, 2008 – the revitalized RIC Task Force met to discuss the survey results and moves forward with written bulletin and monthly *Gazette* articles and programming.
- June 1, 8, & 15 – three (3) separate/unique RIC inserts were included in Sunday bulletins.
- June 15, 2008 – RIC Task Force members host the fellowship time following worship and welcomed guest presenter, Ginny Jones (LC/NA), who shared her personal story to those gathered in the Fellowship Hall during Faith Formation hour.

## Brief Timeline of Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Activities at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church (2001-present – continued)

- July-August 2008 – a study of *GALATIANS - Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor: Lutherans Talk about Human Sexuality* (ELCA Studies on Sexuality: Journey Together Faithfully, Part Three) is offered.
- July 27, 2008 – was the first GA-Church showing of the documentary, *For the Bible Tells Me So*. Since that initial showing, eighteen (18) additional offerings of this documentary have been offered at GA and at least five (5) additional GA families have hosted viewings of this documentary in their homes.
- August 10, 2008 – Council set the May 3, 2009 special congregational meeting. The first mass-publication of the special congregational meeting was included as an article in the September 2008 *Gazette*; articles have communicated the special May 3, 2009 congregational meeting since the initial September announcement.
- September-October 2008 – discussions concerning the **Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality** were held; several GA-members attended the October 9<sup>th</sup> Minneapolis Area Synod hearings on the **Draft**.
- October 23 2008 – was the first GA-Church showing of *Testimony Time*. Since that initial showing, three (3) additional offerings of this DVD-presentation have been offered at GA. Bishop Emeritus of the Saint Paul Area Synod, Rev. Lowell Erdahl tells about his personal journey through study of biblical texts, countless books, scientific research, and pastoral encounters concerning GLBT issues.
- November 2008 – Phil Holzman and Diane Ott-Hager facilitated three (3) separate discussions of *In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God*, written by Rev. Gene Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire.
- December 14, 2008 – the video presentation, *What Do You Say When Someone You Love Says 'I'm Gay?'* the RIC Task Force has shown this 25-minute video two (2) additional times. Bishop Emeritus, Rev. Paul Egertson, tells the journey he and his wife have taken to understand what it means to have a gay son.
- December 2008 – the Christmas episode of the TV-series, *My So Called Life* (“So Called Angels”) was shown and discussed.
- February-March 2009 – blank “yellow slips” are introduced to the congregation and included in the bulletins and pew racks to receive written, signed and/or anonymous comments from congregants. Responses to these questions were included in the March *Gazette* and the Easter Sunday, April 12 bulletins.
- February 10, 2009 – RIC Task Force members, Gary and Sundra Arvidson present and discuss RIC concerns at the Deborah Circle meeting.
- March-May 2009 – a second offering of the **GALATIANS** Bible study began March 1st
- March 21, 2009 – RIC Task Force members, Gary and Sundra Arvidson present and discuss RIC concerns at the Merry Mates meeting.
- April 2009 – RIC Task Force members, Julie O’Donnell and Diane Ott-Hager offer book discussion times on *A Time to Embrace: Same-Gender Relationships in Religion, Law and Politics* by William Stacy Johnson.
- April 19, 2009 – Phil and Randi Reitan, who, along with their son-Jacob (and daughter-Brita) are featured in the documentary, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, will speak during worship, join the community for fellowship, and speak at the 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Faith Formation Hour.
- *Spring & Summer 2009 – The Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly (May 29-30, 2009 at Augsburg College) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly (August 17-23, 2009 at the Minneapolis Convention Center) will be discussing GLBT-issues and extra-ordinary candidacy.*