

## Reconciling in Christ Resolution

Gay and lesbian persons are often scorned by society and alienated from the Church; we wish to make known our caring and concern by both our Affirmation of Welcome and membership in the Reconciling in Christ program of [Lutherans Concerned/North America](#).

BECAUSE, membership in the Reconciling in Christ program involves that University Lutheran Church of Hope will make a public statement of our ministry of inclusivity. Our congregation will be designated as an open and affirming congregation in community with a growing number of other Lutheran congregations.

BECAUSE, University Lutheran Church of Hope would benefit from being recognized as a Reconciling in Christ congregation by:

- Increasing awareness of our openness through Reconciling in Christ publications and events.
- Providing a means of living out our Affirmation of Welcome, as adopted June 18, 1989.
- Furthering and strengthening outreach to the gay and lesbian community.

BECAUSE, University Lutheran Church of Hope, in keeping with our Affirmation of Welcome, already performs activities typical of Reconciling in Christ congregations, namely:

- Hope's Affirmation of Welcome is prominently displayed in our narthex, and occasionally reprinted in our Visitor;
- Hope's welcome of a broad range of people, including gay and lesbian people, is already publicized in the metropolitan area;
- Hope routinely contributes to the support and understanding of issues faced by gay and lesbian persons, their families and friends through hosting and publicizing our synods' Caring Families and Friends meetings monthly; and
- Present activities at University Lutheran Church of Hope satisfy membership in Reconciling in Christ.

BECAUSE, the Bishops of the [ELCA](#), in an open letter dated March 22, 1996, stated the following:

- "our congregations should reflect our Lord's invitation to all..."
- we "urge our congregations to reach out to all God's people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."
- a 1991 Churchwide Assembly action declared "gay and lesbian people, as individuals created by God, are welcome to participate fully in the life of the congregations of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)."

BECAUSE, being Reconciling in Christ violates no [ELCA](#) rules or regulations, nor creates any risk of discipline or reprimand.

BECAUSE, the designation, 'Reconciling' in Christ is currently being considered as a change by the national organization of [Lutherans Concerned/North America](#).

BECAUSE, the designation 'Reconciling', rather than 'Reconciled', addresses the theological objections previously raised in discussions at University Lutheran Church of Hope; specifically that reconciling clarifies that we, by virtue of our own efforts - and certainly not through declarations - never achieve absolutely the state of being reconciled, but instead commit ourselves to an on-going process of reconciliation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that University Lutheran Church of Hope become a member in the Reconciling in Christ program of [Lutherans Concerned/North America](#).