

## **The RIC Journey at CTK**

In 2023, the Christ the King Council created the CTK Task Force to explore the option of becoming a recognized RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Church. The RIC program was created 50 years ago with an initial focus on the queer community. Now the program has expanded to include other groups who have not felt embraced by mainstream churches.

The goal of becoming an RIC church is creating a community where all people know they are welcome. To become a recognized RIC church, there are four commitments we must meet.

1. Your community explicitly states a welcome to people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” or “LGBTQIA+ people” and names its commitment to “racial equity” or “anti-racism” in its welcome statement.
2. Open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Roster Leader.
3. Will allow community space/sanctuary to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
4. Will make a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program.

### **What has the RIC Task Force at CTK already done?**

- The task force has held many one-on-one conversations with members, focused on creating community
- We have provided multiple opportunities for members to ask questions and discuss RIC
- The task force partnered with Justice & Peace for a movie night and discussion
- We have held adult forums during Faith Continuum

### **What happens next?**

The task force is currently starting to draft a Welcome Statement. Once we have a draft, we will be holding straw poll votes with the congregation to help us finalize the statement. The congregation must have an official vote to approve the Welcome Statement and have CTK become a RIC church. Our goal is to have the official vote at the Annual Meeting in January 2026.

### **RIC Task Force Members**

Liz Zaruba, Chair

Julie Hatleli

Jodie Wallschlaeger

Becky Menk

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