



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



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**The Well Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech
Joins the Reconciling in Christ Community**

Blacksburg, Virginia ---In July 2021, The Well Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech joined Reconciling Works as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.

The Well is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) campus ministry at Virginia Tech, their home congregation is Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg. Students join the community for service, faith building, and fellowship, and welcome the message that everyone is a child of God, and everyone is a recipient of God's love. The Well's welcome statement emphasizes the inclusiveness that has always been a hallmark of the organization:

"God loves us and calls us to love. We are called to welcome and affirm all, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, denomination affiliation, or any barrier that divides us, because God's love unites us. Through discipleship and active service to our community, we strive to intentionally deepen our relationship with God and one another, and to uphold the values of our covenant."

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Abby Hall, president and long-time member of The Well, says “The Well has always been a welcoming community. But we wanted to do something to make sure those around our community could see that we are welcoming and affirming of all identities. We have seen throughout history, and more recently, the injustices and crimes against minority groups. One of the saddest parts of these injustices is that the Christian community is often at the forefront. That is not the community we want to foster. As a member of the queer community myself, it is so welcoming and affirming to have a community that accepts me and affirms me while I can grow in my faith and in my relationships with others. It is not often that we see a symbol of Christ, the cross, and a symbol of the LGBTQ+ community, the rainbow, together in one logo. We are proud to display this logo on our building, on brochures, and other signs to show everyone in the Virginia Tech community that they are loved, they are affirmed, and they are welcomed at The Well.”

The Reverend Monica Weber, pastor at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, stated “Luther Memorial has been an RIC partner since 2003, and we are excited that The Well has joined the Reconciling in Christ community. The Well provides a welcoming group for Virginia Tech students who are seeking God's love and grace and a ‘home away from home.’ We look forward to greeting all students at our worship services as they return to campus.”

About The Well Campus Ministry: The Well is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) campus ministry at Virginia Tech. The Well students’ home congregation while they study at Virginia Tech is Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. Well members have regular opportunities for fun, food, and fellowship in Christ throughout the week while Virginia Tech is in session. They welcome all to join them in fellowship and service to the community, and to grow in their relationships with God as well as in the friendships they have with one another. For more information, e-mail Pastor Libby Pfaff, thewell@lmlc.org, or visit <https://lmlc.org/campus-ministry>.

About Reconciling in Christ (RIC): Since 1974, ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their

Church, congregations, and community. As Lutherans working together, we recognize that racism, sexism, ageism, able-ism, heterosexism, homophobia, and all the other artificial distinctions that seek to raise one group into privilege and preference over another, conspire together to diminish our world and church. Visit <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/> for more information.

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