

How You Can Help:

1. Include a supply of RfA brochures in your church literature rack.
2. Forward our E-newsletter to your congregation. Print out copies for those who don't email.
3. Share stories with us of ways that joining the RfA roster has impacted your congregational life.
4. Tell your friends about Room for All—many RCA members have never heard of us!
5. Attend meetings of the RfA regional group in your area, or start one—we can help.
6. Invite a Board member to present an informational gathering about our ministry.
7. Support Room for All with a financial contribution at the level your congregation is able to offer. You might take a special offering once a year, or include us in your annual budget. Much as they commit to a Partner-in-Mission share in their denominational giving, some churches pledge an annual gift to RfA as a tangible testimony that LGBT inclusion in the RCA is missional ministry.
8. Please continue to lift up Room for All in your congregational prayers.

THANK YOU!



You're a
"Room for All Church"

NOW WHAT?

Congratulations!

You are part of a growing fellowship of RCA congregations who have declared their commitment to welcome and affirm God's people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. That's worth celebrating, sharing, and building upon!

This brochure suggests some ways to make your identity as a "Room for All Church" an ongoing and organic part of your life together in worship, education and outreach. May you be blessed and blessing in your ministry of inclusion!

A Place to Begin

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to write a Welcoming and Affirming Statement. This is a joyful step in clarifying your inclusive witness and making it known. The statement should be brief, Christ-centered, and LGBT-specific. There are examples from other churches on our website, and you can always contact Room for All for help. Once you have a statement, you're ready to **celebrate, share, and build.**



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Now What?



Celebrate

What better way to celebrate and reflect God's inclusive love than through worship! Here are a few ideas:

1. Print your Welcoming Statement in your bulletin or worship slides every week. Instead of burying it in the announcements, some churches include it in the masthead on the first page, as a fixed and prominent identity and witness.
2. On a regularly designated Sunday, recite your Statement as a call and response litany during an appropriate part of your liturgy. *(For other ideas about how to incorporate your Statement, go to <http://www.believeoutloud.com/learn/resource/video/how-be-welcoming>.)*
3. Let your spoken and sung worship language reflect God's inclusive love:
 - ◆ Include inclusive hymns and litanies *(resources may be found at http://welcomingresources.org/A_Place_in_Gods_Heart.htm).*

CELEBRATE...

- ◆ When you pray, or in sermon illustrations, include LGBT relationships in positive contexts. *(Research shows that this is probably the single most important action your congregation can take to make people of all sexual orientations and gender identities feel affirmed as people of God and welcomed for who they are.)*
 - ◆ In children's sermons, look for ways to celebrate the diversity of God's creation, normalize families with same-sex parents, or make conscious efforts to instill anti-bullying values in the children.
4. Encourage openly LGBT people to serve in visible worship roles, or invite an openly gay guest preacher one Sunday.
 5. Commission an artist from your congregation to design a banner that celebrates diversity.

Share

Many LGBT people are understandably wary of churches. By becoming a "Room for All Church," you have affirmed your belief that it's no longer enough to say, "We know we're welcoming" — your LGBT-inclusive identity needs to go public! Here are some ways to share your good news, inside and out:

1. Talk about it — at work, at school, at social events; don't forget your online friends!
2. Post your Welcoming Statement on your website and in your newsletter.
3. Include the phrase "A Room for All Church" in your bulletin, newsletter, on your website, your outdoor sign, your bulletin boards, your newspaper ads, anywhere your church advertises. If you'd like to incorporate the RfA logo, let us know.
4. Make sure you're on all the local lists of Welcoming and Affirming Churches.

SHARE...

5. Post your "Room for All Church" certificate in a prominent location or next to the guest book so that visitors will see it.
6. Write a brief article for your local newspaper or ecumenical publication sharing your good news.
7. Announce it at the next meeting of your classis and regional synod, and offer to mentor other RCA congregations on a similar journey.
8. Order a supply of RfA lapel pins for your whole congregation — they're great conversation starters!



Build

It's important to sustain and build upon your congregation's faithful commitment to be a "Room for All Church." Structuring ongoing opportunities around the subject of LGBT inclusion will help make it part of your "congregational DNA." Here's a start:

1. Offer periodic educational events for adults, teens and older youth about sexual and gender diversity. Include a faith-based anti-bullying curriculum module for children on a regular basis. *(Contact us for resource ideas.)*
2. Invite guest speakers from community groups like PFLAG or GLSEN, and make your facility available for meetings of such LGBT-supportive groups.

BUILD

3. Attend a "Building an Inclusive Church" training event to gain new ideas and insights, or offer to host a BIC training in your church.
4. March in a local Pride parade. Support the parade by setting up a water station along the parade route. Schedule an LGBT-related class or social event in your church during the week of the parade. If you don't have a Pride parade, start one!
5. Model LGBT inclusivity in your church's hiring decisions, including pastoral staff.
6. Periodically review the "Affirmations of Room for All Churches" that your consistory signed when you voted to join the roster (you can find it on our website). Are there implications for your life together that have not yet been addressed? We invite you to continue to evaluate and discern as you seek to radiate Christ's inclusive love in your community.

Build our Ministry

The concluding sentence in the "Affirmations of Room for All Churches" reads, "We support the mission of Room for All with our prayers, words, actions and gifts." You have already demonstrated your participation in our mission by joining the Room for All roster. **Thank you.**

Please consider other ways that you can help us expand our ministry. Some ideas are listed on the back of this brochure.