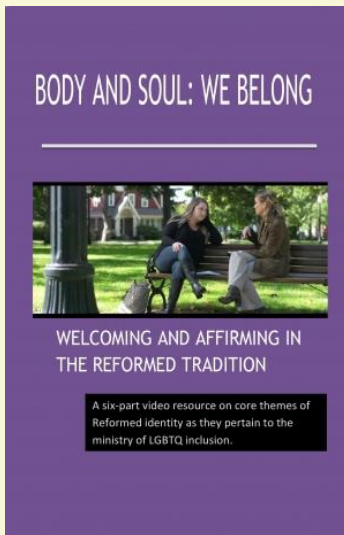


RfA News from Room for All

To support, educate and advocate for the welcome and full affirmation of people of all sexual identities and gender expressions in the Reformed Church in America.

Winter 2014



New resource

"My only comfort in life and in death is that I belong...to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ."

When those words from the Heidelberg Catechism were quoted at RfA's 2013 national conference, a gay woman wept. No longer welcome at her Reformed congregation, she had left several years earlier. "I thought I'd never hear those words applied to me again," she confided.

Her story speaks to why we think that our new resource, "[Body and Soul: We Belong](#)" is needed. For



Less & More

Welcome to a new, more concise format for Room for All's newsletter! From now on, RfA News will drop into your email inbox - no need to click. Of course, you can also also view the newsletter in your web browser, and we'll post and store the links to past issues on our website. With this new format, we hope to send shorter newsletters, but more frequently than 4 times a year. Our Facebook and Twitter pages will continue to post updates in between. As always, we welcome your feedback, and are ever-grateful for your partnership in this ministry for LGBTQ inclusion in the Reformed Church in America.

Marilyn Paarlberg

Another Video Resource

Coming

"Room for Me?" is a short-film project created by Jeremy Bork that seeks to



Upcoming Events

March 21 & 22: Room for All Board meets at Flatbush Reformed Church, Brooklyn NY.

April 11 & 12: "Building an Inclusive Church" workshop at Greenville Community Reformed Church, Scarsdale, NY. Info & registration [here](#).

April 25 & 26: RfA participates in an ecumenical community forum on LGBTQ inclusiveness at Metuchen (NJ) Reformed Church.

May 1st: RfA "Room for Me?" video release.



CONGRATULATIONS TO HOPE CHURCH, HOLLAND MI FOR WINNING THE ONLINE AUCTION FOR THE CONFERENCE PAINTING!

people in the Reformed faith tradition, core understandings like belonging, baptism, faith and freedom, mission, Scripture and the sovereignty of God matter. They matter to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. They matter as Reformed congregations wrestle with a faithful response to LGBTQ people, families and allies who seek to find a welcome, to participate fully in the life of the church, or to offer their gifts in ordained offices.

Now that the project is complete and [available on our website](#), we hope that it may encourage grace-filled conversation in congregations, campuses and other settings throughout the Reformed family of faith, as together we seek a way forward as the Body of Christ.



introduce and celebrate the wide diversity of LGBTQ people in Reformed Church in America congregations or campuses across the country. Nearly 30 people have participated in the project thus far, each asked to respond to the same set of four questions. Woven through the interviews are stories of joy, pain, and faith. A [2-minute trailer](#) is available for viewing on our website, and we look forward to the completed 15-minute film in May.

HOST A REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY AROUND THIS NEW SERIES!

Would you like a member of the RfA Board to visit your congregation, campus or classis to introduce or lead a small-group opportunity around this new resource, or to speak about RfA's other ministries? Call us at (201) 364-4538 or email our director at mpaarlberg@roomforall.com.

Conference Footnotes

Whether you attended "Making Room for All 2013" or only wish you had, photos, videos, audio files and more are available [at our website](#). There's also information about ordering note cards, prints, mugs or other items that feature the collaborative painting by conference participants and artist Joel Schoon-Tanis. This offer extends through December, 2014.

RfA Board Approves New Roster Process

Responding to feedback from churches and in alignment with our ecumenical partners in other Welcoming Church programs, RfA has revised the process for becoming a "Room for All Church." Full information, including resources and sample welcoming statements, is available at [our website](#).

How can I help?

RfA would not be able to expand our ministry of support, education and advocacy without the financial gifts that we receive from individuals, churches and foundations. For example, your help in the near future will enable us to schedule more "Building an Inclusive Church" workshops, regional group activities, conferences, support networks and more. Your tax-deductible gift may be sent to Room for All, P.O. Box 11495, Albany NY 12211. If you prefer a PayPal donation, you can use the "Donate" link on our website. Stock transfers are also accepted. Please direct your questions to info@roomforall.com, or call us at (201) 364-4538. Thank you!