

# Expanding Our Welcome

November 2023 Edition

## Consider This

Did you know that November 19<sup>th</sup> is World Toilet Day? Lutheran World Relief is doing work around the world to foster healthy sanitation. Read more about their efforts here: <https://lwr.org/toiletday>

As congregations, we work to provide restrooms in our buildings that are sanitary and accessible. How might we also make them places of welcome? Restrooms can be fraught with anxiety for many. What if I need to help my opposite gender spouse with their toileting needs? My teenage son is autistic and needs my help in the bathroom; how do I not offend or scare someone if he needs to go? Which bathroom do I use if I am non-binary or transitioning?

Not all churches have a single room toilet, which soothes many of these dilemmas. You may want to consider this as a priority for the property committee. Also consider your signage. How does it convey welcome to all who may need to use it? The RIC Work Team can help your congregation think through these issues. Consider the suggestions that are offered by our UUA siblings: <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/ways/bathrooms>

## RIC Work Team

The RIC Work Team serves as a resource for congregations and ministries throughout the synod as we all seek to expand our welcome in creative and life-giving ways. In this new publication we hope to provide practical ideas for your congregation to consider. Each month will have a different focus and some resources you may find valuable.

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