



Reconciling United Methodists and Friends of North Carolina

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2002 Annual Report

RUM-NC and Friends began 2002 by co-hosting (with Calvary UMC) the February meeting of the national board of the Reconciling Ministries Network at Calvary UMC in Durham. With the support of members and other volunteers, the full weekend of activities not only provided transportation, housing, and feeding of the board members at very little cost, but also an opportunity for warm fellowship through a Saturday night pot luck dinner and party and worship at Calvary UMC on Sunday morning. Monthly meetings at various churches throughout the Triangle offered opportunities to continue our outreach to LGBT individuals and their families.

In April, the congregation at Calvary UMC voted to become the North Carolina's first reconciling congregation. In addition to Calvary UMC, Aldersgate UMC, Fairmont UMC, Resurrection UMC, Orange UMC, the UNC-Chapel Hill Wesley Foundation, and the NC Annual Conference office hosted monthly meetings and all-inclusive worship services. These group meetings and welcoming worship services allowed those in all three of the triangle communities to have access to the group discussions and time of sharing.

One of RUM-NC's goals is to reach beyond the Triangle. A joint worship service with MFSA at the 2002 NC Annual Conference in June along with a pizza party and information table gave lay and clergy delegates the opportunity to personally express their concerns and receive information.

In addition to sustaining a website (<http://rumnc.tripod.com>) with a calendar of events, lists of resources, published RUM witnesses, and directions to meetings, members of the group participated in the University UMC in Chapel Hill's study of "The Church Studies Homosexuality" last winter which drew a large attendance of over 100 persons to each session. Several RUM-NC members attended the "Open Dialogue, Open Doors" Workshop sponsored by Virginia Reconciling United Methodists (VRUM) in Charlottesville, Virginia in May.

Because many LGBT are not involved in any church activities, the group also reached out to that community at the annual NC Gay Pride March and Festival in Durham in September by jointly hosting a booth with Calvary UMC. Calvary UMC also gave out bottled water along the parade route.

At the annual planning retreat for 2003 the following leadership team was named: Co-leaders: Matt Connor and Jenny Johnston, Worship Service Coordinators: Larry Kroutil and Jeanie Aycock, Meeting Program Coordinator: Larry Kroutil, Advertising and Outreach Coordinator: John Suddath, and Education Seminar Coordinator: Stephen Daughtry. In the fall of 2003, a regional educational seminar is planned. Also, two outreach trips are planned to Greensboro and Wilmington. RUM-NC and Friends will continue to staff a resource table and conduct a worship service (with a Pizza luncheon) at the 2003 NC Annual Conference. Monthly meetings and all-inclusive worship services will continue to be held in 2003 in churches throughout the Triangle area.

We are the Reconciling United Methodists and Friends of North Carolina. We seek to make the United Methodist Church more inclusive of its gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender brothers and sisters.