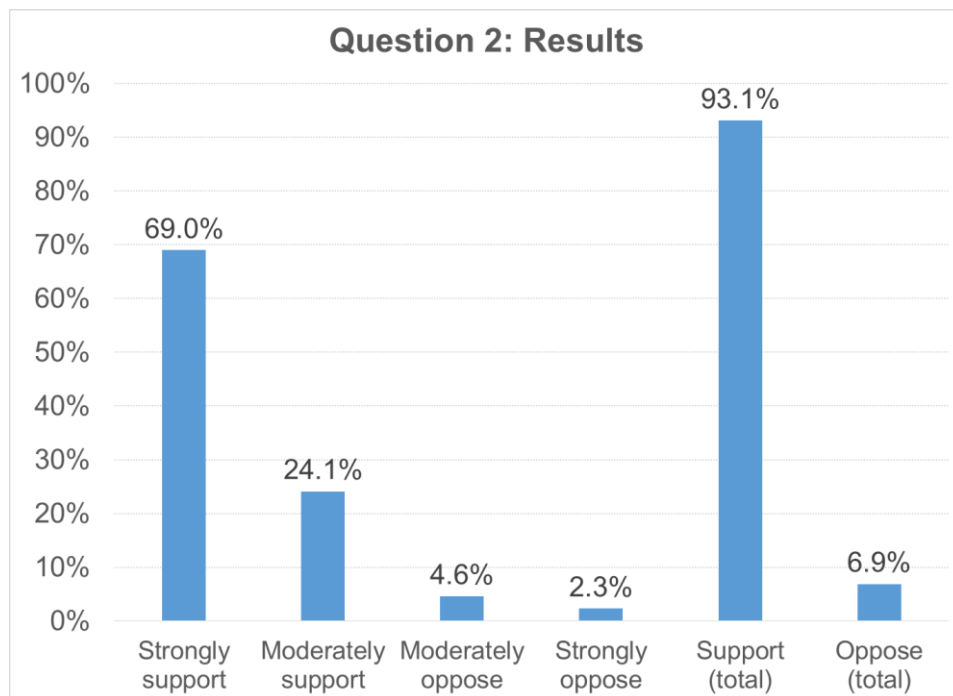


The Reconciling in Christ group distributed a questionnaire in January to gather feedback about their ministry at St. John. A total of 89 individuals returned the questionnaire. This page contains a summary of the results.

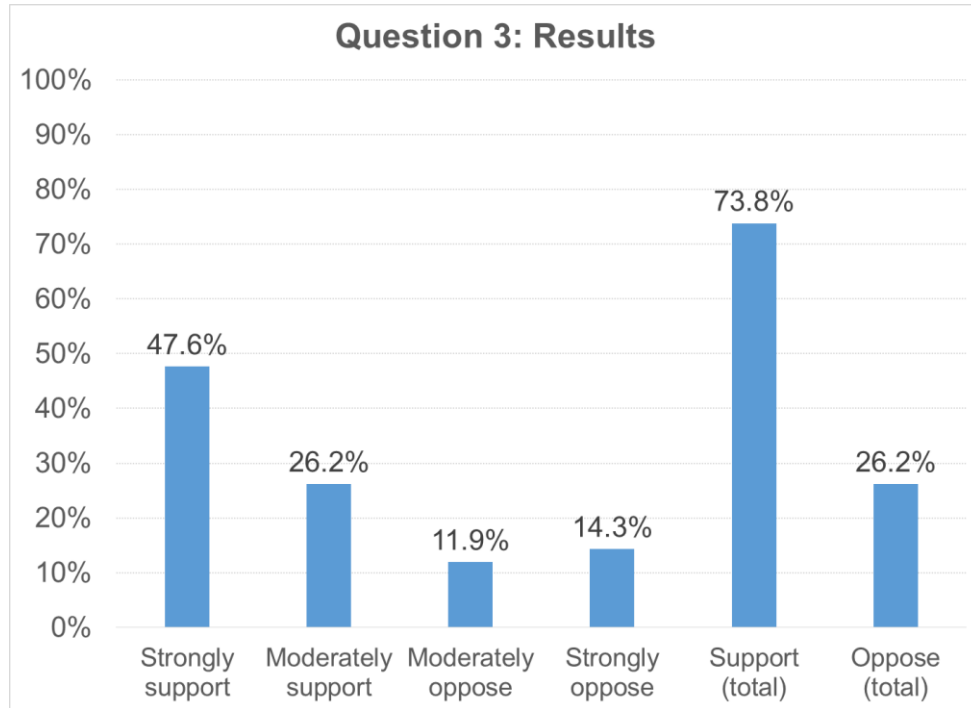
Question 1: Do you have a family member or friend who is LGBT?

Of those responding, 77% indicated that they do have LGBT family and/or friends.

Question 2: The St. John Council approved (in 2015) a welcoming statement which appears on the congregational home page. *As a gathering community of Christ we are called to live and be Christ in community. Living in Grace, we strive to see Jesus shining in all people of any sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnic origin, age, economic reality, family status, diverse ability, or faith perspective. Through God’s embracing grace we celebrate as full participants in the life and ministry of St. John Lutheran. “...For all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28.* Please let us know your level of agreement with this statement.



Question 3: Do you support the listing of our congregation on a website that would help LGBT people and their family and friends find St. John? (The website is sponsored by Reconciling Works, a group of ELCA congregations).



There were 2 slightly different versions of the questionnaire that were turned in (content was modified slightly after the sample ballot was distributed), and they had different options to answer for Question 4 (“Where do you see yourself?”).

Percentage of people marking each response (out of total responses, regardless of which of the 2 versions they completed):

Response	% of total surveys	% of those supporting listing on RIC website	% of those opposing listing on RIC website
We should not welcome LGBT specifically:	15%	5%	45%
We should support all in Christ:	50%	56%	36%
This should be a non-issue:	42%	45%	36%
Concerned it may alienate current members:	39%	29%	68%
Concerned it may discourage non-LGBT to come:	24%	15%	50%
Concerned it may encourage more LGBT to come:	5%	2%	14%

Comments (Opposed to identifying St. John as welcoming to LGBT people)

- I don't like labels – they can be divisive.
- This church is very welcoming. Too many labels do less.
- I believe we are welcoming to all and this label, although well-intentioned, is promoting divisiveness, like many labels do.
- I'm not sure we need a label. St. John should be welcoming to all.
- I do not believe we need to label ourselves to be welcoming.
- Specifically welcoming LGBT people implies not as welcoming to other groups (ethnic groups, races, ages, etc.).
- I am concerned that the process of getting there will drive us apart, not together.
- I am concerned that we may forget other members and their concerns because of emphasis on LGBT and the very narrow focus.
- This (members left) happened already – want them back! Love the entire family of St. John, sad when active devoted members break away.
- I fully support inclusion of all but don't think we need the RIC statement.
- Can't we just be "all welcoming"?
- If a Native American family joined us, if people who came (supervised) from jail, people in recovery programs, etc. came, God bless them but let them blend, perform, play music etc.
- I feel all people means all are welcome – no need to explicitly name any!

Comments (Supportive of identifying St. John as welcoming to LGBT people)

- I am exploring other churches as I am frustrated by the pace and lack of bold leadership around this topic. I believe my children and LGBT friends deserve me to be a strong advocate on this.
- I am concerned that not affirming our welcome of all people will drive people away.
- But it will drive away people if we don't affirm statement and become RIC, including me and my family. This is so important to us that we have considered another church home if this doesn't happen.
- I am concerned that not becoming an RIC church will make LGBT people feel more isolated.
- We will lose current members if we do nothing. We are already losing folks because of our timidity.
- Should be non-issue but we should explicitly welcome because others do see it as an issue.
- I have 2 children in gay relationships and want the church to embrace them.
- Without this we won't be welcoming. We need to be RIC.
- I support being an RIC congregation.
- Thank you for your work, RIC group. I have immense respect for you individually and collectively.
- I believe the 2 goals of RIC will be welcomed by a lot of folks. Certainly Christ calls us to do even more but this is a great start.

Comments (other)

- We should welcome all God's children
 - The statement welcomes all
 - I believe all should be welcome
 - We are all God's children!
 - We are a church for all
 - Love is the answer
-
- Does the welcoming statement replace the mission statement?
 - Problem with sentence structure in welcoming statement
 - What does "faith perspective" mean?
 - Will open doors you will have to deal with