2013 Year in Review

**January**
President Debra W. Haffner’s book on the messages of love and hope in the Bible, Meditation on the Good News: Reading the Bible for Today, is published.

**February**
The Religious Institute launches a Groundswell petition to ESPN Christian Commentator Dr. James Merritt to have Philadelphia 76ers’ Pat Burrell remove homophobic comments from his ESPN blog. The petition garners over 300 signatures.

**March**
President and CEO Debra W. Haffner receives the “Golden Brick” Award at the National Sex Education conference in recognition of her outstanding lifelong contributions to the field of sexuality education.

**April**
President Debra Haffner is the keynote speaker at the annual Planned Parenthood Federation of America interfaith breakfast, right before President Obama addresses the group.

**May**
The Religious Institute debuts the Sexuality Education for Religious Educators online course.

**June**
The Religious Institute launches a redesigned website with better access to resources and greater integration with our social media sites.

**July**
The Religious Institute creates a Tumblr to "Show Pat Love" in wake of the 700 Club’s Pat Robertson’s homophobic comments about same sex couples and collects beautiful same sex wedding photos, including Deputy Director Marie Alford-Harkey and wife April Alford-Harkey. The photos are sent to the Christian Broadcast Network.

**August**
The Religious Institute releases its annual report for 2012.

**September**
The United Church of Christ becomes the first Protestant denomination to have all of its seminaries designated as Sexually Healthy and Responsible Seminaries by the Religious Institute.

**October**
The findings of Religious Institute survey of religious leaders regarding congregational and personal use of the Internet and social media are released.

**November**
After two years of study, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association adopts the Religious Institute recommended revision of its code of conduct on sexual ethics. 183 words are replaced with, “I will not engage in sexual contact, sexualized behavior, or a sexual relationship with any person I serve as a minister.”

**December**
The Religious Institute debuts the Sexuality Issues for Religious Educators guidebook for congregations, Bisexuality: Making the Invisible Visible in Faith Communities, is written following a day-long colloquium on bisexuality held in April. (The guidebook will be available in the summer of 2014).

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