

## St. Paul's Celebrates 24<sup>th</sup> Reconciling Anniversary

In 1998 St. Paul's UMC voted to become a Reconciling Congregation. This means that All people are welcome to worship and participate in the ministry of the church regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification. This year we celebrated our 24<sup>th</sup> Reconciling Anniversary.

When we became a Reconciling congregation we joined Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) because we believe that together, with other like-minded churches, we can make a change within the United Methodist denomination.

**Reconciling Ministries Network** equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to **resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.**



The language of our mission comes from the United Methodist baptismal vow. Simply put, we work to advance justice and inclusion for all LGBTQ people in The United Methodist Church and beyond.

Since 1984, RMN has worked to transform hearts, churches, and communities. We do that through grassroots organizing, resourcing and educating, denomination-level change-making, pastoral care, and working with you, faithful people hopeful for a reconciled Church.

RMN began as a faith-based response to institutionalized homophobia braided into the fabric of The United Methodist Church. Now, over 30 years later, the Reconciling movement spans four continents, 1,000+ churches, and 40,000+ individuals and still growing. Love is still growing!

Last year, RMN put forth amended guidelines for new applicants hoping to join Reconciling Ministries Network. RMN sent existing Reconciling churches the new guidelines and asked us to consider updating our Reconciling statements.

St. Paul's Reconciling team felt that this was a good time to take a look at our statement to make sure the language was current as well as stating clearly our intentions as a congregation. As a team we worked together to bring you the newly revised statement that is currently being reviewed by Church Council.

At St. Paul's we have a vibrant growing Reconciling committee and all had a hand in blending together the original Reconciling statements with the new guidelines presented by RMN.

We are most proud of the teamwork and careful contribution of all of our team. We feel that while our new statement includes all of the ideas put forth by RMN it also is rich in history and values the hard work and original content that was so carefully crafted 24 years ago.

We look forward to presenting the revised Reconciling statement to the Church Council and on the church website after Council approval.

For further information regarding Reconciling Ministries Network: [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)