

*The Reconciling in Christ Team is a group of members (Celene Welch, Nathan Graham, Chris Clarkson, Nancy Johnson, Suzanne Terry, and Pastor John Bell) tasked to explore with the congregation whether it is time for Christ The Servant to commit to becoming a 'Reconciling in Christ' (RIC) community. An RIC church is one that proclaims itself to be welcoming and inclusive to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities (LGBTQIA+ people).*

### **Come Sing About Love**

by Nathan Graham

The rock musical *Godspell*, which plays April 1-17 at the Campus Theatre (featuring our own Elizabeth Moose in the cast), is probably best known for the image of Jesus with an afro, clown makeup, and Superman shirt, and for catchy Stephen Schwartz songs like “Day By Day” and “Light of the World.” In the midst of all the fun and zaniness, the show depicts the formation and testing of a community, presenting an alternative vision of what church can be—and a corrective to what it too often is.

*Godspell* was the brainchild of John-Michael Tebelak, a gay Episcopalian who for many years wrote and staged liturgical drama for the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City. Inspiration came when he was brainstorming his master’s thesis at Carnegie Mellon and read through the Gospels in a single afternoon.

“Afterwards, I became terribly excited because I found what I wanted to portray on stage,” he said in a 1975 interview with *Dramatics* magazine.

“Which was...?” asked the interviewer.

“Joy!” he replied. “I found a great joy, a simplicity.”

Hoping to experience that joy again, he decided to attend a sunrise service one Easter morning, but there he found the opposite of the good news he had just been reading. The parishioners grumbled about unseasonable snow and how it had upset some of their plans, the service was rote and passionless, and he felt unwelcome and out of place in his T-shirt and overalls.

As he was leaving, he was stopped and frisked for drugs by a police officer who had been sitting two pews ahead of him.