

*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*

## **Where We're Headed**

*by Nathan Graham*

Last month, I wrote about the cultural, legislative, and judicial attacks on LGBTQIA+ people that are happening across the country. In conclusion I said that standing with the community—affirming the image of God within each gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or asexual person—may become increasingly risky if the cultural tide doesn't turn, but that this makes it even more important for us to embody good news towards those whose value and autonomy are being denied.

Bearing this in mind, the RIC team wishes to share our gameplan as we move forward in the discernment process.

Our first attempt at a survey left us with results that we could not fully access without paying a prohibitory fee for a year-long subscription. As a result, we've updated the survey and moved it to the Jotform platform. Please check your emails or the RIC page on the church website for a link to this updated survey. We'd appreciate everyone taking it, even if you answered the earlier version, so we can actually see your feedback!

This fall we will be hosting a bible study, and possibly some other events, dependent on your survey responses. Our goal is to propose a new welcome statement and bring it to a vote by the spring, as long as responses to a later survey reach the threshold of affirmatives required by Reconciling Works.

We appreciate everyone who has reached out to us, come to our small-group discussions and documentary viewing, or written guest articles for the newsletter. If you feel your voice isn't being heard in this process, make it heard! We welcome your voice as a member of Christ the Servant.