

From the January 20, 2021 Bethelite

https://www.bethel-madison.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Bethelite_1.20.21WEB.pdf

Wow! That Was Fast:

Bethel Now a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

In the previous issue of the Bethelite, you read the good news of Bethel's new welcome statement. For your encouragement and convenience, it is included on the back page of each Bethelite. The church council approved and adopted this statement as a fact, a promise, and a vision. Close on the heels of the Bethel council approval, Reconciling Works also accepted and approved this powerful statement. What this means is that Bethel will be placed in listings, message boards, and other resources to alert people looking for a church home that welcomes people who are LGBTQIA. This is Reconciling Works special mission. It is an organization that helps congregations widen their welcome to specifically include gays and lesbians. But, as you can see for yourself, Bethel's welcome embraces a wide range of people.

We can give thanks to the Reconciling in Christ Steering Team for over a year of beautiful hard work. Thank you Pam Shellberg, David Clack, Sue Rogers, Hank and Sharon Starkey, Matt Coppens, Drae Lick, Bonnie Orvick, Jeanne Hrovat, and Tom Solheim. Their work has helped widen the welcome at Bethel, offered healing to those unwelcomed in the past, and encouraged Bethel on a path of growth and innovation.

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" – Romans 15:7.