



Reconciling in Christ and Human Sexuality. In September, members of First Immanuel attended a workshop for congregations interested in learning more about Reconciling in Christ, a program for Lutheran congregations who wish to identify themselves as welcoming for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members. As a congregation we've already taken some of the actions that are part of the Reconciling in Christ program, such as including a welcome statement in our bulletin. At its October meeting, the Church Council appointed a task force to help us explore whether First Immanuel would like to identify itself as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

This past summer, our ELCA Churchwide Assembly took historic action to approve a Social Statement entitled *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, which addresses a variety of matters related to sexual expression. The assembly also adopted a series of resolutions that open the way to recognize and support lifelong, committed same-gender couples and for congregations to bless their unions, and to open the door for gay and lesbian clergy who are in lifelong committed relationships to serve as pastors in the ELCA.

You have an opportunity to learn more. On Sunday, November 22, the task force will host a forum to share more about the work of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and about the Reconciling in Christ program. Your questions are welcome.