



First United Methodist Church

Points to Ponder

What is “Reconciling”?

I think it is interesting that, when seeking a name for the network of folks who want to see all people, regardless of sexual identity, able to worship together within the United Methodist Church, they chose the word Reconciling. It is a word with several different connotations; and looking in the dictionary taught me something about the mission of this group. Initially the definitions refer to interpersonal relationships – to reconcile between two arguing relatives who have stopped speaking, for example: “to cause to coexist in harmony; make or show to be compatible.” (*Merriam-Webster*). Certainly, this is part of what we are looking towards; as Jesus seeks and desires a personal relationship with each of us, so we need to look at our personal relationships with each other and determine if we are as forgiving, kind and loving as Christ wants to be to whomever God brings into our lives.

But reconciling is also a word used in the field of financial accounting. To reconcile an account, or two joined accounts, means to “make (one account) consistent with another, especially by allowing for transactions begun but not yet completed.” Balancing our own checkbooks, so to speak. How do our transactions, as the body of Christ living here in the world, tally up with each other? What do we owe to our fellow man, and to God? Is the way that we treat any person who walks through our doors done with just as much love and genuine welcome as any other member of this church would be treated? Or are we falling behind in our payments? What do we owe to our neighbor?

- *Victoria McGrath*