

Fairlington Members and Friends,

This is an invitation to consider a special donation to support the work of Fairlington UMC's Reconciling Ministry Team. While our church's reconciling activities receive a small amount from the annual church operating budget, the majority of this work is carried out with second mile gifts through a special Reconciling Fund. Our Reconciling Team is very dynamic and has seen a surge of activity during and coming out of the pandemic. Further, Fairlington UMC is recognized as a leader in the Virginia Conference and nationally in the reconciling movement, which generates some of our work. Over the last 4 years, the Fund balance has dropped from about \$4,000 to \$2,000, with some additional expenses coming in the near term. However, we have not asked for individual contributions to support the Fund in quite some time.

In the next couple years, the Reconciling Ministry Team expects to sustain current activities, but in addition, wants to be positioned to support new activity in light of actions taken at 2024 General Conference to remove discriminatory language against the LGBTQ community. The denomination is in a liminal time as it discerns how to live into this more inclusive new stance, and Fairlington UMC should be at the forefront of this opportunity to reinvigorate our church. Below is a graphic showing how the Reconciling Ministry Team has spent funds over the past 4 years, to give you a sense of what we do and where money goes. If you feel called to support Fairlington's Reconciling work, please write a check to the church and designate Reconciling Fund in the memo line OR if giving online, select Reconciling Fund in the drop-down box. Thanks for being a congregation that loves and embraces all people and is willing to do the work!

