

Call to Worship – Congregation 40th Anniversary

Welcome to this place—a place where all are welcome.

Welcome to this sacred place, the walls that invite in,
the table of abundance, the house of the holy;
A house made ever more holy by our persistent presence.
Welcome home.

You who have come home often, and you who have not been for a very long time;
Welcome home.

You who saw the early walls, who have dismantled, who have danced in the margins,
You who are still resisting, who are dancing even harder;
Welcome home.

You who have gone before, You who have left, who have been left behind, pushed out;
you who are dancing elsewhere; Your spirits are remembered in this home.

We have walked in the valley of shadows. We have seen evil.
For forty years (and more!) we have wandered, and found, wandered, and found.

And where we have gathered, we find—beloved friends, the finest foods, cups pouring over,
the anointing oil. We find the most colorful god who welcomes with reckless abandon.
May we be blessed in this home!
May our bodies be blessed and at home here.
Our born bodies, Our reclaimed bodies, Our transitioning bodies.

May our inner selves be blessed and at home here.
Our whole selves, Our partial selves, Our questioning selves.

May joyfulness, passion, and love meet us here;
may this house of abundance be our dwelling forever.

Welcome, and blessed be!

Anna Beth Roeschley (USA) From *Along the Arc*. ©2017 Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests.
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