

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES

Scripture Study and Biblical Interpretation

Study Guides Books and Multi – Session Study Guides

Books on Homosexuality and Transgender

Books on Coming Out

Personal and Family Stories

Same Sex Marriage/Civil Unions

LGBT Spirituality

Worship and Liturgy Books

LGBT Pastoral Care

Books for Children

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES

Scripture Study and Biblical Interpretation

Bellis and Hufford, Science Scripture and Homosexuality. Pilgrim Press, 2002. Collaborative work of a biblical scholar and a biology professor addresses scripture passages relating to homosexuality and explains the foundation of genetics and evidence suggesting an organic basis for sexual orientation.

Farr, Ron. Same-Sex Relationships, A Compassionate Christ-Centered View. Laity Empowerment Project, 2005. Chapters are on Biblical literalism, principles for interpreting scripture, Bible passages pertaining to same-sex acts, and reflections on homosexuality.

Helminiak, Daniel. What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality. Alamo Square Press, 2000. A short, easy-to-read book looking at scripture from a historical-critical approach. Each chapter deals with the most often quoted scripture regarding homosexuality.

Kader, Samuel, Openly Gay, Openly Christian. Leland Publications, 1999. Exegetical study of the Bible passages mostly commonly used against the gay community.

Miner, Jeff and John Connoley, The Children are Free, Reexamining the Biblical Evidence on Same-Sex Relationships. Jesus Metropolitan Community Church, 2002. Authors examine the often quotes scripture passages, other affirmations in scripture, and how Jesus applied scripture.

Schussler Fiorenza, Elizabeth. In Memory of Her, a Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins. Crossroad Publishers, 1992. A classic in feminist theology that examines gender roles and the androcentric interpretations of Biblical passages. A good companion to other books for understanding same-sex roles in ancient times.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES

Study Guides Books and Multi – Session Study Guides

Created in God's Image, United Church Press, 1993. A ten session human sexuality program for ministry and mission that helps participants to reconnect their spirituality and sexuality and encourages churches to integrate sexuality into their mission. Available from United Church Resources

Claiming the Promise, An Ecumenical Welcoming Bible Study Resource on Homosexuality. Published by Reconciling Congregation Program, 1997. A study designed for seven 1 _ to 2 hour sessions. Topics include: Introducing The Subject and Ourselves, Attitudes about Sexuality, Understanding Sexual Orientation, Sexism/Heterosexism/Homophobia, Family and Relationships, Youth and GLBT Issues, The ONA process—What, Why and How. Included in each session is information for leader, background information for participants, and worship resources. Available from UCC Coalition.

The Circle of Grace, Embracing the Whole Community of God, United Church of Christ. Resources for congregations to explore what it means to live in God's circle of grace as a reconciled community and become open to and affirming of lesbians, gays, bi-sexual, and transgendered persons. Each of the nine sessions is based on a biblical text with activities to support the theme.

Paulsell, William, ed. Listening to the Spirit. Chalice Press, 2001. A handbook for discernment process on homosexuality. Seven sessions are supplemented with video clips.

Siler, Mahan, Exile or Embrace? Congregations Discerning Their Response to Lesbian and Gay Christians. Pilgrim Press, 2005. A small-group resource for congregational outreach to LGBT members as well as those outside the church.

Stuart, Elizabeth, Religion is a Queer Thing. Pilgrim Press, 1997. This book makes queer theology available and accessible to a general audience and encourages the reader to become part of the ongoing development of this theology. It is a study guide which can be used by groups or individuals, and contains exercises and liturgies as well as explanations of queer theology.

Oliveto, Turney and West, Talking About Homosexuality, a Congregational Resource, Pilgrim Press, 2005. A six-session guide for small groups with detailed facilitator guide.

Whicher, William, ed. Process and References for studying The Question of Homosexuality. Illinois South Conference, 2000. A six session study guide for congregations. Session 1- Introduction, session 2 - Biblical Authority, session 3 - Bible Study Relating to Human Sexuality and Homosexuality, session 4 –Debate on Homosexuality, session 5 – Same Sex Unions, session 6 – What Next?

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES
Books on Homosexuality and Transgender

Conover, Pat, [Transgender Good News](#). New Wineskins, Press, 2002. Includes precise explanation of transgender experiences, a critique of scientific research, and a discussion of a biblical Christian attitude toward transgendered people.

Mollenkott, Virginia Ramsey, [Omnigender, a trans-religious approach](#). Pilgrim Press 2001. This book identifies ways in which the common understanding of gender as two opposite sexes is harmful to people, moves beyond this current gender construct to offer vision of a new, more flexible gender paradigm, known as “omnigender,” and offers a vision of what such an omnigendered society might look like, including suggestions for the educational, scientific, and political steps it will take to get there.

Piazza, Michael, [Gay By God](#). Sources of Hope, 2008. A handbook on how to be lesbian or gay and Christian. Author is on staff of Cathedral of Hope a mega church serving the day community in Texas.

Tigert, Leanne McCall, [Coming Out through Fire: Surviving the Trauma of Homophobia](#). Pilgrim Press, 1999. A pastor’s story of coming to her congregation.

Scanzoni, Letha and Virginia Ramey Mollenkot, [Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?](#) Harper, 1994. This book is both informative and compassionate while addressing the scientific, psychological and biblical perspectives about homosexuality. First published in 1978, it was the only book of its kind. Revised in 1994 it now addresses issues of gays in the military, AIDS crisis, and genetic research.

Tigert, Leanne McCall and Maren Tirabassi, ed. [Transgendering Faith](#). Pilgrim Press, 2004. A collection of stories, poems, rites and rituals to help transgender people better understand themselves.

Siker, Jeffrey, ed. [Homosexuality in the Church: Both Sides of the Debate](#). Westminster John Knox Press, 1994. A collection of articles by authorities on scripture, tradition, reason, biology, ethics, and gendered experience discuss homosexuality from opposite perspectives.

[What We Wish We Had Known](#), Breaking the Silence, Moving Toward Understanding, a Resource for Individuals and Families. www.pcmk.org Click on resources then The Blue Book.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES
Books on Coming Out

Borhek, Mary, Coming Out to Parents, Pilgrim Press 1993. A two-way survival guide for lesbians and gay men and their parents. The book explores the fears and misgivings of homosexuals coming out and how to deal with reactions. Helps guide parents through natural feelings of grief and loss.

Fairchild and Hayward, Now That You Know. Harvest Book, 1998. Written by two mothers of gay children, the book discusses the nature of homosexuality, counsels parents to respond supportively to gay children and brings families together by maintaining the bonds of acceptance and affirmation.

Handel, Linda, Now That You Are Out of the Closet, What about the Rest of the House? Pilgrim Press, 1998. Author speaks from personal experiences as a former spouse in a heterosexual marriage, a mother of two, an out lesbian and licensed therapist about the full spectrum of life concerns.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES
Personal and Family Stories

Aarons, Leroy, Prayers for Bobby. Harper, 1995. The story of a mother's coming to terms with the suicide of her gay son.

Borhek, Mary, My Son Eric. Pilgrim Press, 2001. The personal story of a mother's struggles to accept her gay son and in the process discovers herself.

Fumia, Molly, Honor Thy Children. Conri Press 1997. The story of a Japanese American family dealing with AIDS and the death of three sons.

Henrikson, Marcy, Our Daughter Martha, A Family Struggles with Coming Out. Pilgrim Press, 2001.

Tigert, Leanne and Timothy McCall, ed., Coming Out Young and Faithful. Pilgrim Press, 2001. Lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, and questioning teens describe their experiences in the church. Includes information and resources for ministry with and advocacy on behalf of LGBT youth and young adults.

Whitehead, Sally Lowe, The Truth Shall Set You Free, 1997. A family's passage from religious fundamentalism to a new understanding of faith, love, and sexual identify. A woman's story of understanding her gay husband.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES

Same Sex Marriage/Civil Unions

Ellison, Marvin, Same Sex Marriage? A Christian Ethical Analysis. Pilgrim Press, 2004
In dialogue with both legal scholars and theologians, Ellison examines the strengths and weaknesses of how marriage traditionalists, advocates of same-sex marriage, and LBGT critics of marriage analyze the issues and frame their arguments.

Yost, Merle James, ed. When Love Lasts Forever. Pilgrim Press 1999. A collection of personal stories from men whose partnerships have lasted ten years or more, confirms that love and commitment are values that help them face the pressures of family and society.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES

LGBT Spirituality

Boisvert, Donald, Sanctity and Male Desire. Pilgrim Press, 2004. Book is about how saints can instill desire and looks at twelve saints.

Chellew-Hodges, Candice, Bulletproof Faith: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians. Jossey-Bass, 2008. A Spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians. A UCC pastor discusses spiritual practices and faith formation for the gay community.

Morrison, Melanie, The Grace of Coming Home. Pilgrim Press, 1995. A collection of essays, addresses, meditations and sermons for gay men and women and men who have felt alienated from the church and Christian tradition by virtue of non-inclusive language, fear-based images, of God and disempowering images of humanity.

Piazza, Michael, Queeries: Questions lesbians and gays have for God. Sources of Hope, 2008. Author shares personal e-mails from the electronic community seeking spiritual connection and answers about God.

Fortunato, John, Embracing the Exile. Seabury Press 1983. Describes a journey of spiritual and psychological deepening for people who are both gay and Christian.

Tigert, Leanne McCall, Coming Out While Staying In. United Church Press, 1996. Book reflects the author's personal struggle with the church as the source of pain and alienation, as well as support and spiritual renewal.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES
Worship and Liturgy Books

Duncan, Geoffrey, Courage to Love. Pilgrim Press 2002. An anthology of worship materials which allow LGBT men and women to affirm their sexuality. Includes poems, prayers, same-sex blessings, marriage ceremonies, and Eucharistic and baptismal liturgies.

Turney, Kelly, ed., Shaping Sanctuary, Proclaiming God's Grace in an Inclusive Church. Reconciling Congregation Program, 2000. A collection of essays, sermons, liturgies and hymns for the welcoming movement gathered from ten denominations.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES
LGBT Pastoral Care

Gaede, Beth, ed., Congregations Talking about Homosexuality. Alban Institute, 1998. A handbook to help congregations work their way through the process of discussing homosexuality including case studies from congregations.

Hinnant, Olive Elaine, God Comes Out, A Queer Homiletic. Pilgrim Press. 2007. A collection of sermons by LGBT preachers to help understand homosexuality.

Kundtz and Schlager, Ministry Among God's Queer Folks. Pilgrim Press, 2007. A practical handbook covers the basic skills religious caregivers and ministry students need in order to be supportive pastoral care providers to GLBTQI persons.

Marin, Andrew, Love Is an Orientation. Intervarsity Press, 2009. A pastors search to understand his gay friends and build a bridge between the gay and Christian communities.

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE LGBTQI RESOURCES
Books for Children

Heron, Ann, How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay? Alyson Books, 1991
A story for elementary children about regular kids who have gay and lesbian parents.

Newman, Leslea, Heather Has Two Mommies. Alyson Books, 1989
A story for elementary children about a girl who was born into a lesbian relationship.

Wilhoite, Michael, Daddy's Roommate. Alyson Books, 1990
A story for preschool children about a boy whose father is gay.