

Resources On Healthy Dialogue

Crucial Conversations by Patterson, Grenny, et al. This is a how-to book on having healthy, transformative conversations when the stakes are high. A helpful summary is available here: <http://www.peace.ca/crucialconversations.pdf>.

Ashley B. Dreff, *Entangled: A History of American Methodism, Politics, and Sexuality* (Nashville, TN: New Room Books, 2018).

Hats Exercise for Discussion of Difficult Topics, adapted by WNCC Leadership Development. Available at: <http://leadwncc.org/hats-exercise-for-discussion-of-difficult-topics/>.

“How to Make Sure You’re Heard in a Difficult Conversation,” by Amy Gallo in the Harvard Business Review. Available at: <https://hbr.org/2015/11/how-to-make-sure-youre-heard-in-a-difficult-conversation>.

JustPeace: Center for Medication and Conflict Transformation Engaging Conflict. Welcoming Conversation. Honoring Relationships. Transforming Community. Homepage: <http://justpeaceumc.org/>

Nonviolent Communication, a process by Marshall Rosenberg. Available at: www.ayahuasca-wasi.com.

The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions by Francis Asbury.

“The Truth About Consensus,” an article by Susan Beaumont. Available at: <http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/the-truth-about-consensus/>.

Resources for Conversations about Same-Sex Relationships

UMC-Specific Resources

Bishop Ken Carter: Why I Believe The United Methodist Church Will Remain United
<http://www.flumc.org/videodetail/why-i-believe-the-united-methodist-church-will-remain-united-8384939>

Tom Berlin’s Sugar Packets: <https://vimeo.com/217081225>

Finding Our Way by Job, et al. UMC Bishops offer a variety of responses to the crisis facing our church at the moment, ranging from radical to law-and-order approaches, and including everything in between. For our purposes, Bishop Ken Carter’s piece and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward’s chapter, about the dialogue process in NCCUMC, would be of greatest interest.

For the Sake of the Bride by Steve Harper. The author is an evangelical, and a former Asbury professor who has become more progressive in recent years. Harper suggests a “round-table” approach for the sake of the bride, the church. This offers a helpful ecclesiological grounding for the conversation.

Staying the Course edited by Maxie Dunnam. Offers a variety of perspectives on why the UMC should maintain its present position on sexuality.

The Loyal Opposition edited by Tex Sample and Amy DeLong. Offers a variety of UMC perspectives on why the church should change the *Book of Discipline's* clauses about sexuality.

The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict by the Arbinger Institute. One of the books studied by the Commission on a Way Forward. The book seeks to inspire reconciliation through the premise that people whose hearts are at peace do not wage war, whether they're heads of state or members of a family.

Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality Study Guide: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness published by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Suitable for a four-week study, this resource addresses how the church can be a witness and provide for a diversified human community. Based on the research of Dr. Charles M. Wood, this study guide offers United Methodists an opportunity to think about what has become a cultural and ecclesial flash point--human sexuality. Available from Cokesbury.com.

Unafraid and Unashamed: Facing the Future of United Methodism by Wil Cantrell. A resource for communicating the issues around human sexuality facing the denomination. Without taking sides, the author seeks to chart a way forward based on Christian love and mutual respect for theological divisions.

Resources from a Traditional Perspective

Confronting the Controversies by Adam Hamilton. In this older work by Hamilton, he comes down to a moderate conservative position in the chapter on sexuality.

Seeing Black and White in a Gray World: The Need for Theological Reasoning in the Church's Debate Over Homosexuality by Bill T. Arnold. A critique of Adam Hamilton's approach from an Asbury Professor of Old Testament.

The Bible and Homosexual Practice by Robert Gagnon. One of the most well-known and scholarly treatments of the biblical arguments from a traditional point of view.

The Moral Vision of the New Testament by Richard Hays. A scholarly, holistic application of the 'Wesleyan' Quadrilateral to New Testament ethics. His chapter near the end on same-sex marriage contains one of the best perspectives from a traditional Christian viewpoint.

Washed and Waiting by Wesley Hill. An evangelical Bible scholar offers his own reflections on identifying as gay but being called to a celibate lifestyle. He also has some excellent interviews and lectures on YouTube.

Seeing Black and White in a Gray World: The Need for Theological Reasoning in the Church's Debate Over Sexuality by Bill T. Arnold. In this book, Arnold challenges Adam Hamilton's *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* by addressing the question of whether we need more "gray" or more "black and white" as United Methodists reflect theologically on the issue of homosexuality and the Church.

Resources from a Progressive Perspective

"An Act of Love" by Scott Sheppard and Kate Logan. A recent documentary about the case of Rev. Frank Schaeffer. More information at: <http://www.anactoflovefilm.com/>.

God and the Gay Christian by Matthew Vines. A popular work on the Bible and same-sex marriage from a young gay Christian.

"For the Bible Tells Me So" by Daniel Karstake. A documentary covering the debate about the Bible and sexuality, including Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson. Available on Netflix. More information here: <http://www.forthebibletellsmeso.org/indexd.htm>.

Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton. In this more recent work by Adam Hamilton, his chapter on sexuality spells out why he has shifted his position since writing *Confronting the Controversies*.

Changing Our Mind (second edition) by David P. Gushee with Brian D. McLaren, Phyllis Tickle and Matthew Vines. In this book, David Gushee shares his personal and theological journey of changing his mind about LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Church.

Grace/Truth 1.0: Five Conversations Every Thoughtful Christian Should Have About Faith, Sexuality and Gender (Kindle Edition) by Dr. Preston Sprinkle. A five-week small group study which gives practical guidance on how to embody the love of Christ toward sexual and gender minorities.

Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gay-vs-Christian Debate by Justin Lee
A resource for all theological perspectives as it follows one conservative Christian through acknowledging his same-sex attraction and the tensions he experienced in trying to live his faith and sexuality through a conservative lens in a church that struggled to know how to come alongside him in this journey.

Through My Eyes": True stories of young gay Christians

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QImNx1JA3BI>

A discussion-starting video which looks at the lives of young Christians who have been personally affected by this debate in the church. The video is connected to this booklet: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/596533272cba5e0a8bbc8591/t/598b6fcca803bbd59bd9c61c/1502310361184/church+booklet+2.pdf>

Sexuality and the Christian Body by Eugene Rogers. A scholarly work that grounds a progressive approach to same-sex marriage in a robust pneumatology and the grafting in of gentiles into to Israel. Rogers is a gay Episcopalian who teaches at UNCG in the Dept. of Religion. His piece from the Christian Century is also a helpful, introductory read: <http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-04/same-sex-complementarity>.

Resources From an Alternative Perspective About Sexuality or Covering Multiple Perspectives

Reasoning Together: A Conversation on Homosexuality by Ted Grimsrud and Mark Thiessen Nation. This book collects a theological dialogue about same-sex relationships between two Mennonite theologians with different views. Includes a foreword by Tony & Peg Campolo.

Same-Sex Marriage in the Life of the Church. This document from the Episcopal Church offers reflections from both sides and responses to each other. Rogers (mentioned above) wrote most of the progressive pieces. This is a free resource that covers strong, healthy arguments from both sides. Available at: http://www.collegeforbishops.org/assets/1145/ss_document_final.pdf.

The Church in Crisis by Oliver O'Donovan. O'Donovan is a Church of England priest and a leading moral theologian working today. This is his brief but potent reflection on the crisis as it has played out in the Anglican Communion.

Small Group Studies

Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church (a four week small group study) from Abingdon Press
<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9781501859779/living-faithfully/>

Rooted in Grace: Essays on Dialogue without Division from Missional Wisdom Foundation
<https://www.academymwf.com/browse/journey/courses/rooted-in-grace>

Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
https://www.gbhem.org/sites/default/files/study_guide_eng_final.pdf

Race, Culture, the Church and Human Sexuality from the General Commission on Race and Religion
<http://www.gcorr.org/vital-conversations-4-race-culture-the-church-and-human-sexuality/>