



Reconciling Process Resources

This is an initial list, there are many other resources that you may find helpful. Compiled by “Exploring Participation Reconciling Ministries Network” planning team.

Books

“Changing the Message: Cruelty to persons who are gay is incompatible with Christian teaching” by Julie Hilliard Wood. From a RMN blog post by the author: This book “seeks to educate, challenge us to recognize the misinterpretation of theology, and stop the harm while validating the beautiful masterpiece of God’s creation to include the diverse representation of sexual and gender identity.”

“God and the Gay Christians: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships” by Matthew Vine, also has a presentation that can be found on YouTube. Book available from Cokesbury.

“One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins” by Emily Kegler. From the author’s website: “As a queer woman who grew up in both conservative Evangelical and progressive Protestant churches, she knows too well how Scripture can be used to wound and exclude. And yet, the stories of Scripture continue to captivate and inspire her—both as a person of faith and as a pastor to a congregation. So she set out to fall in love with the Bible, wrestling with the stories inside, where she met a God who continues to seek us out—appearing again and again as a voice, a presence, and a promise.”

“Our Family Outing: A Memoir of Coming Out and Coming Through” by Joe Cobb & Leigh Anne Taylor, the story of a family facing the reality that their husband/father is gay. The authors, Joe, a husband, pastor and father and Leigh Anne, a wife, church musician and mother tell their story of facing the truth about his sexuality and Leigh Anne’s finding her way to acceptance and forgiveness.

“Our Strangely Warmed Hearts. Coming Out Into God’s Call” by Bishop Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto. History of LGBTQ persons in culture and the UMC, including ten testimonies from LGBTQ persons in the UMC.

“Rainbow Theology: Bridging Race, Sexuality, and Spirit” by Patrick S. Cheng. This book explores the theologies of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people of color.

“Reclaiming Church” by JJ Warren. The author continues his call to reaffirm the Church be welcoming to all, including young people. In the final chapter, he focuses on practical and positive steps for joining voices, being heard, building bridges, and working together for young people to reclaim Church in their lives.

"Rediscipling the White Church: From Cheap Diversity to True Solidarity" by David Swanson. From the author's website "Pastor David Swanson contends that discipleship, not diversity, lies at the heart of our white churches' racial brokenness. Before white churches can pursue diversity, he argues, we must first take steps to address the faulty discipleship that has led to our segregation in the first place." Published May 2020.

"Staying Awake: The Gospel for Changemakers" by Tyler Sit. Nine practices for Christians who wish to show up for justice and stay in the movement.

"The ABC's of LGBT+" by Ashley Mardell, a guide for anyone who wants to learn how to talk about gender identity and sexual identity.

"Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians" by Austen Hartke. A biblically based, educational, and affirming resource to shed light and wisdom on this modern gender landscape.

Movie/Video

"For the Bible Tells Me So" 2007 documentary that explores the intersection between religion and homosexuality in the U.S. and how the religious right has used its interpretation of the Bible to stigmatize the gay community.

"for they know not what they do" – a film by the director/producer of "For the Bible Tells Me So" that describes the campaign, launched by the right, following the Supreme Court case legalizing marriage equality. This campaign is working to limit rights of America's LGBTQ citizens across the country. This 2019 film follows the stories of four families on their journey to understand and accept their queer and trans children. Film website:

<https://www.fortheyknow.org> Film can be purchased or viewed through this website:
<https://watch.firstrunfeatures.com/products/for-they-know-not-at-first-run-features> To obtain a license for \$100 to show the film to a group, contact Judy Jerde (jaj@hopefultravelers.net) who can put you in touch with First Run Features.

"Living into Our Inclusive Vision" provides information about statement adopted by MN Annual Conference in 2019.

https://vimeo.com/351276106?utm_campaign=2470763&utm_source=affiliate&utm_channel=affiliate&cjevent=c47ecd3e02a411eb801003bd0a24060e

Process resources

"Basics of the RMN Reconciling Process" 30-minute webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmYE1kmJJoI&t=13s>

"Building an Inclusive Church Toolkit" – a guidebook for churches on the journey to become more inclusive. <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/bic/>

“Congregational Assessment & Welcoming Process Outline” from the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce. This will help you plan an appropriate timeline to help your church become more welcoming and accepting. <https://openandaffirming.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Congregation-Assessment-separated.pdf>

“Courageous Conversations” Written for the United Methodist Church, this resource is aimed to help us move from skepticism to curiosity and openness to encounter God’s grace and serves as a toolbox for local churches to inspire and encourage their congregation to participate in conversations that might seem difficult. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/courageous-conversations-overview>

“First Steps” – two-page flyer/document that visually provides information about beginning the Reconciling process. <http://www.mnrcumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ReconcilingFirstSteps052020-1.pdf>

“How to Affiliate with RMN” – information on how to become a Reconciling Ministry <https://rmnetwork.org/become-a-reconciling-ministry/>

Study resources

LGBTQ and Faith Study Resources from RMN. Includes books and videos with suggestions based on the group’s faith perspective.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p6EgDVk34_KU6tLOZ3XKfYWhG6CP_ySn/view

“First Do No Harm” a tool kit for conversations – Written for and used at Annual Conference 2019 Respectful Conversations, this two-page summary features key definitions to understand and frame conversations. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c89c814b10f25e469bdc481/t/5d03e2efdc2d8b0001a5c873/1560535791425/Do+No+Harm+Toolkit+MM.pdf> **

“Hearts Unbound” by David Weiss explores ten Biblical stories of God’s radical love and welcome. Designed to be used as a small group Bible study. <https://mlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/heartsunbound.pdf>

“LGBTQ 101: Conversation on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE)” Download PowerPoint slides on this topic from Fall 2019 “Building An Inclusive Church” workshop. This is a good program for groups that want to further their understanding of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. (This is a download) https://mcusercontent.com/0f311d3342e95b660084ef226/files/753996f0-07b8-4408-ae8-d231ca1ca257/LGBTQ_101_presentation.pptx

“The Bible and Wesleyan Theology” video presentation by Rev. Dr. Trevor Maine on from the December 7, 2019 Minnesota Methodist “Making the Vision Plain” workshop <https://youtu.be/9ZwrtRSsfaw?list=PLRHK7hsP1nXecxIloWPIYztMSdJy8d1Rb>

“The Bible Doesn’t Say The Homosexuality is a Sin; An analysis of the Seven Scriptures Sometimes Claimed to Refer to Homosexuality” by Janet Edmonds <https://elcvienna.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Booklet-about-Homosexuality-and-the-Bible-Sept.-2016.pdf>

“Theology, Identity and Me: An Affirming Study of Gender, Sex and Human Sexuality” developed by RMN. The course is a series of three videos and introduce important human sexuality, gender terms and concepts that are pertinent to the LGBTQ+ community. This is a resource for all but especially ministries that are in discernment about Reconciling and new Reconciling Congregations. \$49 <https://courses.lakelandsinstitute.com/product/theology-identity-me/>

"UnClobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality" by Colby Martin. Examines the six passages used to stand against the full inclusion LGBTQ persons in the church alternating with the author’s experience of being fired from an evangelical megachurch when they discovered his stance on sexuality.

Other Resources

RMN Regional Organizer northcentral@rmnetwork.org

MN Reconciling Congregations minnesotareconciling@gmail.com (contact to get on MN Reconciling Congregations email group, for information about MN Reconciling Congregations meetings or for someone to discuss next steps toward becoming a Reconciling congregation or community)

RMN website <https://rmnetwork.org>

RMN Resource library <https://rmnetwork.org/resource-full-library/>

MN Reconciling Congregations website <http://www.mnrcumc.org>

MN Reconciling Congregations Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MNReconcilingCongregations/>

Updated 5/27/24, for questions, contact MN Reconciling Congregations minnesotareconciling@gmail.com