

# Educational resources

## WEBSITE RESOURCES

[http://www.collegeforbishops.org/assets/1145/ss\\_document\\_final.pdf](http://www.collegeforbishops.org/assets/1145/ss_document_final.pdf)

A study document presented to the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church at its Spring meeting in 2010.

<http://www.epicenter.org/mediafiles/unity-in-mission.pdf>

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas' document, *Unity in Mission: A Paper on Common Mission and the Challenge Posed by Division by the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas*, C. Andrew Doyle. Document produced in Spring 2012 to order to chart a course for the diocese, given the likely approval of rites for the blessing of same-gender relationships by the General Convention in the summer of 2012.

<http://www.epicenter.org/mediafiles/unity-in-mission-study-guide.pdf>

A study guide to the Episcopal Diocese of Texas' document, *Unity in Mission*, intended to facilitate dialogue on the document.

[www.elca.org/faithfuljourney](http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney)

A study guide prepared by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

[www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org)

This mission statement appears at the top of the *Integrity* website: *Since 1974 Integrity has been a faithful witness of God's inclusive love to the Episcopal Church and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. We are working for the full inclusion of all the baptized in all the sacraments.*

[www.claimingtheblessing.org/publications.html](http://www.claimingtheblessing.org/publications.html)

*Claiming the Blessing* [CTB] is an unincorporated coalition of Episcopal organizations and individuals advocating for full inclusion of all the baptized in all sacraments of the church--including the blessing of same-sex relationships and equal access to all orders of ministry by qualified gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered candidates.

[www.dioceseofvermont.org](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org)

A Pastoral Letter on Marriage Equality by the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely, Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont.

Task Force on the Blessing of Persons Living in Same-Gender Relationships: Report (June 8, 2004)

Liturgies for Trial Use (Part IV of the Task Force Report)

Intimate Human Relationships: Resources for Conversation in the Congregations and Deaneries of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont (Anne Clarke Brown, ed., June 2000, revised & updated June 2004.)

[www.province1.org](http://www.province1.org)

Pastoral Resources for Province One Episcopal Clergy Ministering to Same-Gender Couples

<http://www.anglican.ca/primate/ptc/smr/>

The St. Michael Report. A report of the Primate's Theological Commission of the Anglican Church of Canada on the Blessings of Same-Sex Unions.

A Study Guide was also prepared and can be found at

<http://www.anglican.ca/primate/files/2010/11/smr-studyguide.pdf>

## **PRINT RESOURCES**

### **Sacred Unions: A New Guide to Lifelong Commitment**

Author: The Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal, Bishop, Diocese of Southern Ohio

Publisher: Cowley Publications

ISBN-10:1561012491 ISBN-13:978-1561012497

A reflection of faith addressed to all lovers engaged in lifelong commitment, be they straight or gay. Breidenthal asserts that lifelong unions have great value and are a viable option for all individuals, regardless of their background and nature. Chapters address the qualities innate to any enduring relationship of love, including the act of self-giving, the discipline of fidelity, and the ability to adapt and cooperate when confronted with the demands of being parents. Of especial note are the insights into how to cope when love turns painful, and couples hurt one another, intentionally or unintentionally. A sentimental, devoted, and ultimately uplifting celebration of the joys, virtues, and sacrifices of true love. (Midwest Book Review)

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### **Christian Households: The Sanctification of Nearness**

Author: The Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal, Bishop, Diocese of Southern Ohio

Publisher: Wipf & Stock Publishers

ISBN-10:1592448860 ISBN-13: 9781592448869

In the church today we find many different kinds of households: married couples with and without children, single parents, same-sex couples, monastic communities, people living alone. In constructing a theology of the Christian household Breidenthal begins with New Testament texts on the family and goes on to develop criteria by which we can tell the difference between households that are holy, households that fall short of holiness, and households whose basic premises rule out any possibility of holiness.

### **This Far By Grace: A Bishop's Journey Through Questions of Homosexuality**

Author: The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Bishop, Diocese of Atlanta

Publisher: Cowley Publications

ISBN-10: 1561012246 ISBN-13: 978-1561012244

In this thoughtful and timely book, Bishop Alexander explores his journey through the theological, scriptural, and pastoral aspects of the questions surrounding homosexuality and the Christian faith. Writing in the weeks after the General Convention of the Episcopal Church approved the appointment of the church's first openly gay bishop, Bishop Alexander offers a personal view of his changing outlook – from exclusion to acceptance – on this important issue. He also offers thought-provoking perspectives on scripture and tradition. (Cowley Publications)

### **Our Selves, Our Souls and Bodies: Sexuality and the Household of God**

Author: Charles Hefling

Publisher: Cowley Publications

ISBN-10:1561011223 ISBN-13:978-1561011223

A collection of essays, in the forms of narrative, argument, first-person accounts, and theological reasoning, by some two dozen leading figures in the Episcopal Church and other

Anglicans, many of them noted theologians. Their common question: How should the church view sexuality, particularly homosexuality? All the contributors end up in 'gay-friendly' places - but what makes the book fascinating is the varied paths they take to those destinations and the integrity with which they find their way there. (*The Advocate*)

### **Same-Sex Unions: Stories and Rites**

Author: The Rt. Rev. Paul Victor Marshall

Publisher: Church Publishing Inc.

ISBN-10:0898694175 ISBN-13: 978-0898694178

*Same-Sex Unions* is a liturgical and pastoral exploration of what is already happening at places in the church today. Part one offers three biographical vignettes: a female couple, a male couple, and a widowed spouse from a same-sex couple. Part two contains complete texts of several of the rites, including the rite currently authorized for use in the Diocese of New Westminster in the Anglican Church of Canada, together with liturgical analysis and reference to secondary literature. (Church Publishing Incorporated)

### **Reasonable and Holy: Engaging Same-Sexuality**

Author: Tobias Stanislas Haller

Publisher: Seabury Books

ISBN-10: 1596271108 ISBN-13: 978-1596271104

*Reasonable and Holy* addresses the conflict over homosexuality within the Anglican tradition, demonstrating that the church is able to provide for and support faithful and loving relationships between persons of the same sex, not as a departure from that tradition, but as a reasonable extension of it. It offers a carefully argued, but accessible means of engagement with Scripture, the Jewish and Christian traditions, and the use of reason in dealing with the experience and lives of fellow-Christians. (Seabury)

### **Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe**

Author: John Boswell

Publisher: Vintage; First Thus edition

ISBN-10: 0679751645 ISBN-13: 978-0679751649

Diligently researched and documented, this immensely scholarly work covers everything from the "paired" saints of Perpetua and Felicitas and Serge and Bacchus to lesbian transvestites in Albania. Examining evidence that the early church celebrated a same-sex nuptial liturgy, Boswell compares both Christian same-sex unions to Christian heterosexual unions and non-Christian same-sex unions to non-Christian heterosexual unions. Appendixes contain, among other things, translations and transcriptions of cited documents. Whether or not minds are changed on the matter will probably fall along sectarian lines, according to current attitudes on homosexuality. However, the work will provoke dialog. (Lee Arnold, Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

### **Faithful Conversations: Christian Perspectives on Homosexuality**

Author: James Childs

Publisher: Fortress Press, 2003

Five essays designed to stimulate discussion at the parish level. Prepared by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

## **Gay Unions – In Light of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason**

Author: Gray Temple

Publisher: Church Publishing

ISBN 10: 0898694574 ISBN 13: 978-0898694574

Drawing on the Anglican trilateral- authority of Scripture, Tradition and Reason, Temple's approach is scholarly and pastoral as he dares to take the Bible seriously---not literally! He unpacks the topic of scriptural authority and invites people on both sides of this debate to embrace not merely a change of mind but a change of heart and mind based on honesty and integrity in our dealing with this issue and how we decide what is right and wrong. (J. Wesley Smith, Macon GA)

## **Marriage: A History—From Obedience to Intimacy, or How Love Conquered Marriage**

Author: Stephanie Coontz

Publisher: Viking

ISBN 10: 014303667X ISBN 13: 978-0143036678

This is a good source on the history of marriage customs through centuries, showing that marriage is an evolved institution that has changed in response to the social pressures and needs of the times. (Robert Moore, Chicago)

## **Same-Sex Partnerships? A Christian Perspective**

John Stott

Publisher : Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1998)

A short (93 small pages) which upholds the traditional perspective on marriage, and urges a compassionate pastoral concern for gay and lesbian persons.

## **Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents and Their Families**

Editor: Peggy Gillespie

Publisher: University of Massachusetts Press

ISBN-10: 1558491619 ISBN-13: 978-1558491618

This collection of informal family portraits and interviews with LGBT parents and their children grew out of a photo exhibit created by photographer Kaeser. Myriad family configurations are presented: gay and lesbian couples, divorced lesbians coparenting, single parents, transgendered parents, and stepparents and their children. From text accompanying the photographs, we learn who these people consider family and why as they speak about their feelings and experiences as part of an LGBT family. The interviews reveal many of the same joys and struggles as found in other families in addition to the challenges of being an LGBT family in a predominantly heterosexual world. Most enlightening are the children's words; some tell of teasing and hostility directed toward them because of their family, while others simply state that they have two moms or two dads and a family is the people who love you. (Debra Moore, Loyola Marymount Univ. Lib., Los Angeles)

## **Other Resources:**

Eugene Rogers, *Sexuality and the Christian Body: Their Way Into the Triune God* (Blackwell, 1999); Mark Jordan, *Blessing Same-Sex Unions: The Perils of Queer Romance and the Confusions of Christian Marriage* (University of Chicago, 2005).