

**Suggested Publications on LGBT Concerns  
selected from Website of  
The Institute for Welcoming Resources and other sources**

**BIBLICAL**

**Borg, Marcus, *Reading the Bible Again For the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally***, Reprint edition, [San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2002; 336 pp., ISBN 0060609192].

Acclaimed author Marcus Borg reveals how it is possible to reconcile the Bible with both a scientific and critical way of thinking and our deepest spiritual needs, leading to a contemporary yet grounded experience of the sacred texts.

**Gomes, Peter J., et al., editors, *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart***, [San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2002; 400 pp., ISBN 0060088303].

In this groundbreaking book, the man Time magazine called one of the seven best preachers in America provides answers to these questions and shows what the Bible says about topics that concern us all, including joy, suffering, evil, and goodness.

**Helminiak, Daniel A., *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality***, [San Antonio, TX: Alamo Square Press, 2000; 148 pp., ISBN 1-886360-09-X].

Helminiak, a respected theologian and Roman Catholic priest, explains in a clear fashion the fascinating new insights of top scholars such as John Boswell, Daniel Boyarin, Bernadette Brooten, L. William Countryman, Victor P. Furnish, Saul M. Olyan and Robin Scroggs.

**Miner, Jeff, and John Tyler Connoley, *The Children Are Free: Reexamining the Biblical Evidence on Same-Sex Relationships***, [Indianapolis: Jesus Metropolitan Community Church, 2002; 112 pp., ISBN 0971929602].

This book is a comprehensive yet easy-to-read examination of the biblical evidence regarding loving same-sex relationships and God's attitude toward them...weighing the Biblical evidence in favor of welcoming lgbt people.

**Priests for Equality, *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation***, [Plymouth, UK: Sheed & Ward/Rowman & Littlefield, 2007; 799 pp., ISBN-13: 978-1-58051-214-5].

While this new Bible is certainly an inclusive-language translation, it is much more: it is a re-imagining of the scriptures and our relationship to them. Priests for Equality is a movement of women and men throughout the world - laity, religious and clergy - who work for the full participation of women and men in church and society.

**Rogers, Jack, *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church***, [Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006; 176 pp., ISBN 0664229395].

Former seminary professor and church official Jack Rogers argues unequivocally for the ordination of gays and lesbians and for the extension of full and equal rights in society to all people who are homosexual, discussing his own personal change of heart and mind on the issue, a change that has moved him into the middle of this controversy in his own church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**Spong, John S., *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture***, [San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991; 267 pp., ISBN 0060675187].

Spong combines current biblical scholarship, modern science, and most of all, his deep love and respect for Scripture, to lift the Bible out of the prejudices and cultural biases of bygone eras.

Eloquent, forthright, and compassionate, Spong liberates the Bible's message of hope for all people.

#### FILM

***For the Bible Tells Me So*, by Daniel Karlslake**, [First Run Features, DVD, 97 min].

Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Seattle International Film Festival, Dan Karlslake's provocative, entertaining documentary features such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg, Reverend Jimmy Creech, former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopalian Bishop Gene Robinson.

Now available on DVD! Purchase at 25% off through the Human Rights Campaign's Religion and Faith Program

#### BISEXUALITY

**Hutchins, Loraine, and Lani Kaahamānu, editors, *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out***, [Los Angeles: Alyson Publications, 1991; 408 pp., ISBN 1555831745].

"Getting Bi is one of the most important recent contributions to the global struggle for human rights. By enriching our understanding of bisexuality within so many cultural and geographic contexts, this anthology serves as a magnificent tool for building support and respect for the sexual rights of each one of us." - Paula Eitelbrick, Executive Director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

**Ochs, Robin, Editor, and Sarah E. Rowley, Co-Editor, *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals around the World***, [Boston: Bisexual Resource Center, 2005; ISBN 0-9653881-4-X]

"This groundbreaking book is the perfect read for bisexual, queer, curious, and questioning people; everyone from the newly out to long-time community leaders; bi-allies of all stripes..." - Matt Foreman, former Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

#### FILM

***Bi-Sex-u-al*** [2002, Bi All Means Necessary (BAMN) UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns, VHS] order from UCC Resources 800-537-3394, \$25.

The film was created to encourage discussion about bisexual orientation. It is an introduction to three individuals through their own stories of faith and sexuality.

#### COMING OUT

**Glaser, Chris, *Coming Out As Sacrament***, [Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998; 153 pp., ISBN 0-664-25748-8].

Gay Christian author and activist Chris Glaser believes that sexual minorities, often denied their churches' traditional sacraments, have found unique access to the sacred in their lives; coming out of the closet. Glaser persuasively argues that coming out - as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered - has biblical precedence and sacramental dimensions. In this engaging book he shows how coming out, like other sacraments, may serve as a means of grace-that is, an experience of God's unconditional love.

**Tigert, Leanne McCall, *Coming Out Through Fire***, [Cleveland: United Church Press, 1999; 148 pp., ISBN 0-8298-1293-8].

Coming Out Through Fire is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons who seek to move through the trauma of homophobia with the passion and power of transformation. It is also for pastors, therapists, and other helping professionals who seek to confront prejudice and fear and to further the process of healing and recovery in the church and wider community.

**Tigert, Leanne McCall, *Coming Out While Staying In: Struggles and Celebrations of Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals in the Church*, [Cleveland: United Church Press, 1996; 178 pp., ISBN 0-8298-1150-8].**

Coming Out While Staying In reflects the author's personal struggle with the church as the source of pain and alienation-as well as support and spiritual renewal. Leanne Tigert plumbs the depths of social and psychological dynamics within the local church to identify the systems that perpetuate this tension, then develops a theology of liberation with the power to transform congregations into communities of justice. Study questions are provided.

**Tigert, Leanne McCall, and Timothy Brown, editors, *Coming Out Young and Faithful*, [Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2001; 148pp., ISBN 0829814140].**

Winner of the 2003 Mayflower Award for Church and Society. This groundbreaking collection comes from gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning teens whose stories describe their church experiences.

#### FILM

***Anyone and Everyone*, by Susan Polis Schutz, [Iron Zeal Films, DVD, 57 min.].**

Filmmaker Susan Polis Schutz, depicts families from such diverse backgrounds as Japanese, Bolivian, and Cherokee, from various religious denominations such as Mormon, Jewish, Roman Catholic, Hindu, and Southern Baptist. They share intimate accounts of how their children revealed their sexual orientation, about the pain of their children dealing with not being accepted by relatives, friends and faith communities. The film depicts meetings of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) where people get support and help.

#### FAMILIES

**Combs, Bobbie, with Danamarie Hosler, illustrator, *123 A Family Counting Book*, [Ridley Park, PA: Two Lives Publishing, 2001; 32 pp., ISBN 0967446805].**

This counting companion to ABC - A Family Alphabet Book lets your kids count from one to twenty with pictures of families just like theirs. (Ages 2-6)

**Combs, Bobbie, with Desiree Keane and Brian Rappa, illustrators, *ABC - A Family Alphabet Book*, [Ridley Park, PA: Two Lives Publishing, 2001; 32 pp., ISBN 0967446813].**

Have fun with the kids, moms, dads and pets in this delightful book that celebrates LGBT families as it teaches young children the alphabet. (Ages 2-6)

**Gordon, Sol, with Vivien Cohen, illustrator, *All Families Are Different*, [Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2000; 50 pp., ISBN 1573927651].**

Is there such a thing as a "normal" family? Is one family better than another? Of course the answer to these questions is no, but children are often led to believe otherwise. Young people need to understand and appreciate that when it comes to families, they are all different!

**Wickens, Elaine, *Anna Day and the O-Ring*, [Los Angeles: Alyson Publications, 1994; 24 pp., ISBN 1555832520].**

A simple story about a boy named Evan and his two moms. (Ages 2-7)

**dePaola, Tomie, *Oliver Button Is a Sissy*, [San Diego: Harcourt Children's Books, 1979; 48 pp., ISBN 0152578528].**

A little boy must come to terms with being teased and ostracized because he'd rather read books, paint pictures, and tap-dance than participate in sports.

**Valentine, Johnny , with Melody Sarecky, illustrator, *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads*, first paperback edition, [Los Angeles: Alyson Publications, 2004; 32 pp., ISBN 1555838480].**

This Dr. Seuss-like story is one of our favorites. A rhymed parable with a message of racial and sexual tolerance. (Ages 4-8)

**Leaf, Munro, with Robert Lawson, illustrator, *The Story of Ferdinand*, [New York: Viking Children's, 1936; 72 pp., ISBN 0670674249].**

This may well be the first gay children's book ever written. Munro Leaf's 1936 story of a flower-loving bull still rings true as a symbolic portrayal of growing up as a sensitive boy. (Ages 4-8)

**Skutch, Robert, with Laura Nienhaus, illustrator, *Who's in a Family?*, [Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 1997; 32 pp., ISBN 188367266X].**

This is another nice story about the variety of family structures (single moms, divorced parents, gay dads, etc.), with an excellent reflection of racial diversity as well. (Ages 4-8)

**Greenberg, Keith Elliot, with Carol Halebian, photographer, *Zack's Story: Growing Up with Same-Sex Parents*, [Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing Group, 1996; 40 pp., ISBN 082252581X].**

An 11-year-old boy describes life as part of a family made up of himself, his mother and her lesbian partner. (Ages 7-9)

#### TRANSGENDER

**Boenke, Mary, editor, *Trans Forming Families: Real Stories About Transgender Loved Ones*, 2nd edition, [New Castle, Delaware: Oak Knoll Press, 2003; 192 pp., ISBN 0615123074].**

This new edition features forty authors who share their personal journeys from the initial shock or resistance when first learning their loved ones (or they, themselves) were struggling with gender problems, through the various feelings, to final acceptance. The first of its kind, *Trans Forming Families* has become a best seller among transgendered persons and their allies.

**Conover, Pat, *Transgender Good News*, [Silver Springs, MD: New Wineskins Press, 2002; 300 pp., ISBN 0971825637].**

"To those who have dismissed, trivialized, or condemned, transgender experience as pathological, unnatural, or sinful, *Transgender Good News* presents formidable challenges from a first rate sociological and theological mind. Pat Conover has given us a stunning piece of work that will set the standard for the church's virtually unaddressed issue." - James B. Nelson

**Cook, Ann Thompson, *Made in God's Image: A Resource for Dialogue about the Church and Gender Differences*, [Chicago: God Loves Each One Ministry, in partnership with the Reconciling Ministries Network, 2006; booklet].**

In "*Made in God's Image: A Resource for Dialogue about the Church and Gender Differences*," Ann Thompson Cook communicates a gently assertive expectation that we as Christians need to get up to speed on something too rarely discussed but very important for the life of the church and its ministries.

**Mollenkott, Virginia Ramey, and Vanessa Sheridan, *Transgender Journeys*, [Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2003; 184 pp., ISBN 0829815775].**

Based on their own journeys as transgendered Christians, Mollenkott and Sheridan have created an inspiring book about hope, opportunity, struggle, joy, difficulty, and transcendence. Those who identify as gender-variant or are struggling with their own identity will find this book

a useful companion on their journey. It is also a valuable resource for those seeking to help their communities take the next steps toward a more just society.

**Tigert, Leanne McCall, and Maren C. Tirabassi, editors, *Transgendering Faith: Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality*, [Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2004; 162 pp., ISBN 0829814949].**

"I hope that the stories, poems, rites, and rituals contained in this book will help transgender people better understand themselves and bring them to an understanding of how blessed they-we-are in the eyes of God, our Creator." - Barbara Satin, moderator, United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns

#### FILM

***Call Me Malcolm*** [2004, United Church of Christ and Filmworks, Inc., DVD, 90 mins.]. Order from UCC Resources 800-537-3394, or [www.CallMeMalcolm.com](http://www.CallMeMalcolm.com)

A documentary film about one man's struggle with faith, love and gender identity. "This story...is inspirational in the way it illuminates this unknown world in a wonderfully comprehensive conversation." - Steven Snyder, *Minnesota Daily*

#### INTERSEX

**Preves, Sharon E., *Intersex and Identity: The Contested Self*, [New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2003; 213 pp., ISBN 0813532299].**

Drawing upon life history interviews with adults who were treated for intersexuality as children, Preves explores how such individuals experience and cope with being labeled sexual deviants in a society that demands sexual conformity. Preves argues that medical intervention into intersexuality often creates, rather than mitigates, the stigma these people suffer.

