

Bibliography and Resource List

“A Tale of Two Daddies.” Oelschlager, Vanita and Blackwood, Kristin. Vanita Books 2010. A Tale of Two Daddies is a playground conversation between two children. The boy says he heard that the girl has two dads. The girl says that is right. She has Daddy and Poppa. True to a child’s curiosity, practical questions follow. “Which dad helps when your team needs a coach? / Which dad cooks you eggs and toast?” To which she answers: “Daddy is my soccer coach. / Poppa cooks me eggs and toast.”

A Tale of Two Daddies is intended for 4-8 year olds. It becomes clear that the family bond is unburdened by any cultural discomforts. This book introduces a type of family increasingly visible in our society. Neither favoring nor condemning, this book reflects a child’s practical and innocent look at the adults who nurture and love her.

“A Tale of Two Mommies.” Oelschlager, Vanita. Blane, Mike (Illustrator). Vanita Books 2011. A Tale of Two Mommies is a beach conversation among three children. One boy asks another boy about having two mommies. A young girl listening in asks some questions too. True to a child’s curiosity, practical questions follow. "Which mom is there when you want to go fishing? / Which mom helps out when Kitty goes missing?" To which he answers: "Mommy helps when I want to go fishing. / Both Mommies help when Kitty goes missing." A Tale of Two Mommies is intended for 4-8 year olds.

This book lets us look inside one non-traditional family, a same sex couple and their son. As the children talk, it's clear this boy lives in a nurturing environment where the biggest issues are the everyday challenges of growing up.

“And Tango Makes Three.” Richardson, Justin and Parnell, Peter. Little Simon 2015, Book and CD.

The heartwarming true story of two penguins who create a nontraditional family is narrated by award-winning actor Neil Patrick Harris in this book and CD package.

At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo got the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own. Releasing in time for the tenth anniversary of And Tango Makes Three, this book and CD edition features narration by renowned actor Neil Patrick Harris.

“Bisexuality: Making the Invisible Visible in Faith Communities.” Alford-Harkey, Marie and Rev, Hafner, Debra W. Religious Institute 2014.

Is your faith community open to people whose sexuality does not fit into the categories of gay/lesbian or straight? Does your faith community have access to resources about bisexuality and bisexual people? This guidebook is designed to help congregations understand bisexuality and to encourage faith communities to "make the invisible visible." Religious leaders and congregations can use this guidebook to inspire theological reflection and action in their faith communities.

Bisexuality is often invisible in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) organizations, society as a whole, and in faith communities and denominations. Although many mainline denominations and congregations have made great strides in welcoming and affirming lesbian and gay people, and some have even begun to respond to the specific needs and concerns of transgender people, the "B" in the LGBT acronym is still largely ignored. Helping faith communities embrace bisexual persons and reflect theologically on bisexuality brings gifts to congregations and to the practice of faith. When a congregation welcomes and recognizes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, it contributes to a positive image of religion among people who may have rejected religion as intolerant or irrelevant. Such congregations become safe spaces for youth who are exploring their sexuality and have questions. In addition, embracing bisexual persons makes it possible for those persons to be open about their identity and helps create a more open atmosphere in the faith community, encouraging authenticity and community among members. Congregations that embrace bisexual persons can also help heal the suffering caused by the invisibility of bisexual people in society. This guidebook is written to address the broad spectrum of American congregations. The information it contains will be relevant or adaptable to Jewish, Christian, Unitarian Universalist, and Islamic faith communities.

“Coming Out Young and Faithful” McCall Tigert, Leanne and Brown, Timothy J., Eds. *Pilgrim Press* 2001.

While portions of the book are written by the editors, most of this book gives voice to the spiritual journeys of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-identified teenagers and young adults. Their stories are gripping. You read of the struggles and triumphs queer youth had as they came out, and how being queer impacted on their spirituality.

Most of the writers had a Christian background. One writer has Jewish spiritual heritage. Some of the youth are very committed to the faith of their families. Other youth have found a home in the Wiccan faith. The last several chapters contain a wealth of information. There is information for parents, a chapter with prayers, liturgical resources, and Biblical resources, and United Church of Christ resources for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-identified individuals.

Facebook Groups for the LGBTQI community – provided by the Huffington Post
<http://rn.huffpost.com/us/entry/56266915e4b0bce347024edd?ir=Gay+Voices%3Fncid%3Dnewsitushpmsg00000003>

“For The Bible Tells Me So.” Dir. Dan Karlake. Perf. Gene Robinson Perf. Archbishop Desmond Tutu. First Run Features, 2008. DVD.

Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Seattle International Film Festival, Dan Karlake's provocative, entertaining documentary brilliantly reconciles homosexuality and Biblical scripture, and in the process reveals that Church-sanctioned anti-gay bias is based solely upon a significant (and often malicious) misinterpretation of the Bible. As the film notes, most Christians live their lives today without feeling obliged to kill anyone who works on the Sabbath or eats shrimp.

Through the experience of five very normal, very Christian, very American families - including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopalian Bishop Gene Robinson - we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay

child. With commentary by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, *For The Bible Tells Me So* offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity.

“George.” Gino, Alex.. Scholastic Press 2015. Grades 4-6

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl.

George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part... because she's a boy.

With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte - but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

“It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living.”
Savage, Dan. Plume 2012.

Growing up isn't easy. Many young people face daily tormenting and bullying, and this is especially true for LGBT kids and teens. In response to a number of tragic suicides by LGBT students, syndicated columnist and author Dan Savage uploaded a video to YouTube with his partner, Terry Miller. Speaking openly about the bullying they suffered, and how they both went on to lead rewarding adult lives, their video launched the It Gets Better Project YouTube channel and initiated a worldwide phenomenon.

It Gets Better is a collection of original essays and expanded testimonials written to teens from celebrities, political leaders, and everyday people, because while many LGBT teens can't see a positive future for themselves, we can.

It Gets Better Project

The It Gets Better Project's mission is to communicate to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth around the world that it gets better, and to create and inspire the changes needed to make it better for them.

Growing up isn't easy. Many young people face daily tormenting and bullying, leading them to feel like they have nowhere to turn. This is especially true for LGBT kids and teens, who often hide their sexuality for fear of bullying. Without other openly gay adults and mentors in their lives, they can't imagine what their future may hold. In many instances, gay and lesbian adolescents are taunted — even tortured — simply for being themselves.

While many of these teens couldn't see a positive future for themselves, we can. The It Gets Better Project was created to show young LGBT people the levels of happiness, potential, and positivity their lives will reach - if they can just get through their teen years. The It Gets Better Project wants to remind teenagers in the LGBT community that they are not alone — and it WILL get better.

“**My Two Uncles**,” Vigna, Judith. Albert Whitman & Company 1995. Grades K - 2
Plans for Elly's grandparents' fiftieth wedding anniversary party are upset when Grampy refuses to invite Elly's Uncle Phil and his friend, Ned, who are gay.

“**Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens.**” Beige, Kathy and Bieschke, Mark. Zest Books 2011

Teen life is hard enough with all of the pressures kids face, but for teens who are LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender), it's even harder. When do you decide to come out? To whom? Will your friends accept you? And how on earth do you meet people to date?

Queer is a humorous, engaging, and honest guide that helps LGBT teens come out to friends and family, navigate their new LGBT social life, figure out if a crush is also queer, and rise up against bigotry and homophobia.

Queer also includes personal stories from the authors and sidebars on queer history. It's a must-read for any teen who thinks they might be queer—or knows someone who is.

“**Radical Welcome**,” Stephanie Spellers, 2006, Church Publishing Inc., New York, New York
A great resource for congregations looking at how to become inclusive. The book offers an outline on how to begin the discussion of hospitality to all God's children. The website www.churchpublishing.org/radicalwelcome will give even the most intimidated participant all that will be needed to aid his or her church into that wonderful place of radical welcome.

Religious InSTITUTE, <http://www.religiousinstitute.org/>

The Religious Institute is a multifaith organization dedicated to advocating for sexual health, education, and justice in faith communities and society. More than 6,400 clergy, seminary presidents and deans, religious scholars and other religious leaders representing more than 70 faith traditions are part of the Religious Institute's national network.

STONEWALL: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights.” Bausum, Ann, Viking, 2015.
Written for Teens, *Stonewall* explores the 1969 raid on the Stonewall Inn and the subsequent riots on Christopher Street that proved to be the catalyst for the national gay rights movement of the '70s.

“**Toward a Hopeful Future**,” Phil Snider and Emily Bowen, 2010, The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland.

A good look at how the emerging church and mainline churches are intersecting and giving hope to the future of the mainline church. Emergents are asking questions about issues of inclusivity, gender issues and sexual orientation. These emergents want a dialogue not necessarily answers. They are looking for churches that allow the dialogue. They are interested in the journey not the destination. And it is the mainline church that allows this discussion to happen. Snider and Bowen are Disciple of Christ ministers with a wealth of information and suggestions to those looking for a way to welcome our emerging friends.

Wedding Etiquette

These suggestions are shared by Karen and Sarah and were provided pre-equal marriage rights legislation. You may need to think through updates, but this resource is provided for your information. The couple just celebrated their third wedding anniversary.

<http://karenandsarah.ounA/edding.com/view/5986617966233485/28725059>

“What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality,” Daniel Helminiak, PhD, 2000, Alamo Square Press, New Mexico

A wonderful and complete historical-critical exegesis of the biblical texts. Does a good job of explaining how interpretation is an important aspect of reading the ancient texts. Helpful to churches grappling with literal interpretation issues.