

Weaving the Future: Connectional Conversations

Bishop David Alan Bard

September 24, October 2, November 20, December 7, 2017

For Further Reading

[The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016](#) and [The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, 2016](#). Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House.

www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward. Web page for the Commission on a Way Forward.

<https://wesleycovenant.org>. Web site for the Wesley Covenant Association, a United Methodist group supporting the current position of the denomination that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, and calling for church renewal.

<https://rmnnetwork.org>. Reconciling Ministries Network web site, a United Methodist group advocating for the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the UMC including authorizing clergy to officiate at same-sex marriages and allowing for the ordination of married or single LGBTQ persons.

<http://unitingmethodists.com>. Web page for a recently formed group, Uniting Methodists, advocating for a middle way within The United Methodist Church allowing for officiating at same-sex weddings and the ordination of LGBTQ persons, but also allowing conferences to make choices about these matters.

Forthcoming video from the Michigan Area Truth and Reconciliation Group. In this video you will hear the voices of LGBTQ persons and their families discuss some of the pain and difficulty they have experienced in the church.

The Arbinger Institute. [The Anatomy of Peace](#). Oakland: Berrett-Koehler, 2015. This book is being read by both the Commission on the Way Forward and by the Council of Bishops.

Bell Jr., Daniel M. "Will Homosexuality Split the Church." [United Methodism and American Culture, Volume 4: Questions for the Twenty-First Century Church](#). Ed. Russell E. Richey, William B. Lawrence and Dennis M. Campbell. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999. 271-279.

Bradshaw, Timothy, ed. [The Way Forward: Christian Voices on Homosexuality and the Church](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003. A thoughtful anthology of essays from theologians and other persons active in the church about issues related to homosexuality and the Christian faith. The essayists are all from Great Britain.

Corkin, Terence and Julia Kuhn Wallace. [The Church Guide for Making Decisions Together](#). Nashville: Abingdon, 2017. Corkin and Wallace examine ways for churches to discuss and decide challenging issues. This is a helpful resource for any church conversation.

Dunnam, Maxie D and H. Newton Malony, [Staying the Course: Supporting the Church's Position on Homosexuality](#). Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. Maxie Dunnam is a well-known United Methodist who argues for maintaining traditional teachings on human sexuality.

- Fenton, Walter B. "Is There a Way Forward." In Good News. September/October 2017. Helpful analysis of the current conversation in The United Methodist Church.
- Field, David N. Bid Our Jarring Conflicts Cease. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education And Ministry: Foundry Books, 2017. Field argues for the importance of unity in diversity using John Wesley's theology.
- Gagnon, Robert A. J. The Bible and Homosexual Practice. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001. Well-researched scholarly book that argues for the importance of the biblical prohibitions against homosexual activity.
- General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality. Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness. 2017.
- Hamilton, Adam. Making Sense of the Bible: rediscovering the power of Scripture today. Nashville: Abingdon, 2014. A prominent United Methodist pastor and leader in the Uniting Methodists effort argues that the Scriptures variously represent God's will for humanity with some passages meant for all time, some meant for another time, and some which are quite time-bound.
- Job, Rueben P, and Neil Alexander, ed. Finding Our Way, Love and Law in The United Methodist Church. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014. Recently published anthology of essays which outline some of the basic positions on homosexuality among United Methodists.
- Myers, David G and Letha Dawson Scanzoni. What God has Joined Together: The Christian Case for Gay Marriage. New York: HarperCollins, 2005. Authors who would describe their theology as evangelical make a case for gay marriage.
- Placher, William. "Homosexuality" in Jesus the Savior: The Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. In this chapter from his book, respected theologian Placher offers a thoughtful reflection on Christian faith and homosexuality, arguing for greater acceptance.
- Rendle, Gil. "Be Strong and Of Good Courage" and "Knowing How To Read the Signs: a Non-theological Description of the Work of The Commission on a Way Forward." A well-respected United Methodist church consultant reflects on the current situation of our church and how we might lead with courage. These papers are available on-line and have been resources for both the Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops.
- Sample, Tex and Amy DeLong, The Loyal Opposition: Struggling with the Church on Homosexuality. Nashville: Abingdon, 2000. United Methodists arguing for a change in the current language of The Book of Discipline.
- Scroggs, Robin. The New Testament and Homosexuality. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1984. Biblical scholar offers a biblical argument for greater acceptance of homosexual persons.



Michigan Conference

The United Methodist Church

Siker, Jeffrey, ed. Homosexuality and the Church. Philadelphia: John Knox Press, 1994.
Outstanding authorities on Scripture, tradition, reason, biology, ethics, and gendered experience discuss one of the most divisive debates in the church today: the place of homosexuals in the community of faith. Each perspective is explored by two writers, one more conservative, the other more liberal.

Via, Dan O. and Robert A. J. Gagnon. Homosexuality and the Bible: two views. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003. Two respected biblical scholars debate issues of biblical interpretation and homosexuality.

Vineyard USA position paper on LGBT persons and issues:
http://vineyardusa.org/site/files/PositionPaper-VineyardUSA_Pastoring_LGBT_Persons.pdf. A conservative stance that provides “teaching, guidance, support, and clarity to the local churches.” Also a tool for understanding.

Wink, Walter, ed. Homosexuality and Christian Faith. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.
An anthology of brief essays “from some of the nation’s most preeminent church leaders – women and men, Protestant and Catholic, mainline and evangelical – who address fundamental moral imperatives about homosexuality.”