

Holy Relationships—Resources for Further Study *Hope Church, 2015*

As the church prepares for conversations on the topic of Holy Relationships, the following resources are offered for further study. The listing is extensive and includes a wide array of media, most of it available online or in the church library.

*The Discernment Planning Committee, which compiled the list, suggests you begin with items marked by a double asterisk (**). We also invite you to browse the entire list of resources and read those things of most interest to you. Please note that while we encourage you to take advantage of these resources for our conversations later this spring, it is not a requirement for participation.*

We look forward to sharing together in this important time of discernment.

Audio/Videos

Each of the videos/audio selections below can be heard online by clicking on the link below each title.

The Future of Marriage

<http://www.onbeing.org/program/future-marriage-david-blankenhorn-and-jonathan-rauch/4883>

On Being, Civil Conversations Project, April 13, 2013.

A conversation about the same-sex marriage debate from two opposing directions.

David Blankenhorn and Jonathan Rauch both have an equal desire to strengthen the institution of marriage. In this program they show all of us another way forward in grappling with the future of marriage. This program is approximately 60 minutes.

On Being is a Peabody Award-winning public radio conversation and podcast aired twice a week on National Public Radio.

“Lonely Old Widow” Eloquentlly Argues on Behalf of Same-Sex Marriage

<http://www.onbeing.org/blog/lonely-old-widow-eloquentlly-argues-behalf-same-sex-marriage/3765>

Brief clip from a speech defending gay marriage given by Republican state lawmaker, Rep. Maureen Walsh in the midst of a vigorous debate on the issue in the state of Washington, February 8, 2012.

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Gay Marriage: Broken or Blessed? Two Evangelical Views

******<http://www.onbeing.org/program/gay-marriage-broken-or-blessed-two-evangelical-views/103>

On Being, Civil Conversations Project, August 3, 2006.

This broadcast features interviews with Richard Mouw, President of Fuller Seminary and Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, professor emeritus at William Patterson University. These two theological scholars represent different sides of the conversation, but they agree on the importance of listening to one another's deepest hopes and fears around the issue of gay marriage. This program is approximately 60 minutes.

Magazine Articles

A limited number of this article are available as a printed handout in the Hope Church Library. You may also access them online by clicking on the link below each citation.

******Gerald W. Schlabach, "What Is Marriage Now?" *Christian Century* 131:22, (2014), 22.

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2014-10/what-marriage-now>

Books

Descriptions of the following books were culled from publishers and reviewers.

Mark Achtemeier, *The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart* (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville), 2014.

Once a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay marriage, Achtemeier has become an bold activist. This book tells the story of his change of heart and mind and the role Scripture played in it.

******James V. Brownson, *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids), 2013.

Brownson book offers a broad, cross-cultural sexual ethic from Scripture, placing current debates over homosexuality in a wider context and exploring why the Bible speaks as it does about same-sex relationships. Fairly presenting both sides of the debate, the book is a useful resource for those wishing to form an opinion this important issue.

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******David G. Myers and Letha Dawson Scanzoni, *What God Has Joined Together: The Christian Case for Gay Marriage* (Harper San Francisco), 2005.

This book is an effort to bridge the divide between people of faith who support marriage and those who support gay marriage. The authors draw on scientific research and biblical scholarship to debunk myths about sexual orientation, assess claims of sexual reorientation and explore what the Bible does and does not say about same-sex relationships.

Jack Rogers, *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality* (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville), 2009.

In this best selling book, Rogers argues for equal rights in both the church and society. He describes his own journey from opposition to support and outlines the church's history of using biblical passages to marginalized groups. In this more recent edition, he explains the recent progress made by major U.S. denominations toward full equality for same-sex persons.

******William Stacy Johnson, *A Time to Embrace: Same-Sex Relationships in Religion, Law, and Politics*, 2nd edition, (Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids), 2012.

In this book, the author analyzes the religious, legal and political debates about gay marriage, civil unions and committed gay couples. This recent edition also updates the change in laws related to civil unions and same-sex marriage since 2006.

Marvin M. Ellison, *Making Love Just: Sexual Ethics for Perplexing Times* (Augsburg Fortress), 2012.

Using a series of provocative questions, Ellison expands the discussion of marriage to engage readers in ethical considerations about sexuality. He affirms a more relational framework from which to consider the controversial, complex and conflicted issues of human sexuality.

Matthew Vines, *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships* (Convergent Books), 2014.

Vines writes the story of his own attempt to navigate the relationships with his family, his hometown church and the broader church when he came out as a gay man. He offers a unique perspective for both an orthodox faith and sexual diversity through an examination of scripture and his own understanding of same-sex relationships.

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Online Resources

Reformed Church in America (RCA) Website:

**“General Synod Asks for Definition of Marriage”

<https://www.rca.org/news/general-synod-asks-definition-marriage>

Liturgy for Marriage, Reformed Church in America

<https://www.rca.org/resources/liturgy-and-confessions>

<http://images.rca.org/docs/worship/marriage.pdf>

Room for All Website:

**<http://www.roomforall.com>

Room for All is a non-profit growing out of the hopes and dreams, passion and faith, pain and agony of members of the Reformed Church in America. Though most of us have long believed that LGBTQ people should be fully included within the church's life and ministry, events within the Reformed Church in America galvanized us to speak out.

This website provides additional resources as well as current information regarding marriage equality in the RCA.

“Same Sex Marriage in the RCA: A Resource for Pastors and Consistories,” July 2011.

<http://www.roomforall.com/wp-content/uploads/Resource-on-Same-Sex-Marriage-in-the-RCA.pdf>

**“The Christian Case for Gay Marriage,” by David Myers. A workshop summary by Alice Apol.

<http://www.roomforall.com/wp-content/uploads/The-Christian-Case-for-Gay-Marriage.pdf>

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United Church of Christ (UCC) Website:

A limited number of the following articles from the UCC's website on Marriage Equality are available as printed handouts in the Hope Church Library. You may also access them via the link below. Page numbers to locate each article within the "God Is Still Speaking About Marriage" document are noted within the citation.

You will find additional resources in the bibliography of several articles mentioned here.

Link to "God Is Still Speaking About Marriage":

http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/6006/god-is-still-speaking-about-marriage-rvsd-june-2008.pdf?1418430313

Baggage in the Marriage Carriage, Mike Schuenemeyer, (based on an essay by Loey Powell) (see p. 22)

Taking the Bible Seriously, Dr. Paul Hammer, retired professor of Biblical Interpretation at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, N.Y. This is the introduction to the Bible study at the 2000 Dunkirk Colloquy. (see p 29)

*******The Gospel vs. Scripture?* Biblical theology and the debate about rites of blessing. An interview with Walter Brueggemann, Julie A. Wortman (for *The Witness*, November 2002). (see p. 34)

Civil Marriage: What's At Stake? Legal / Economic Protections, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005-3904. (see p. 87)

*******Relationships: Blessed and Blessing*, Rev. James B. Nelson, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus of Christian Ethics at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. This is an address presented at the Twelfth National Gathering of the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns held at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, June 1992. (see p. 116)

Covenant Network of Presbyterians Website:

Marriage Resources (especially related to Marriage Amendment, 14-F)

<http://covenant101.rssing.com/browser.php?indx=9769535&item=21>

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******2013 Covenant Conference, “Marriage Matters” (see especially Amy Plantinga Pauw’s keynote address, “It’s Time”). (Note: to find this address, click on the link below and search the website for “It’s Time”)

<http://covenant101.rssing.com/browser.php?indx=9769535&item=21>

Topical Studies

Same-Sex Marriage: For Better or for Worse?, Adam J. Copeland. The Thoughtful Christian, 2011.

One session youth study.

<http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Products/TC5081/samesex-marriage.aspx>

Same-Sex Marriage: For Better, for Worse?, Nancy J. Duff. The Thoughtful Christian, 2006.

One session adult study.

<http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Products/TC0045/samesex-marriage.aspx>

Same-Sex Marriage and the Supreme Court, Nancy J. Duff. The Thoughtful Christian, 2013.

Free one session study.

<http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Products/TC0562/samesex-marriage-and-the-supreme-court.aspx>