

Resource List

The Pilgrim Group of
Bethel Mennonite Church
has compiled a list of resources
which have been helpful
for many of the people
attending meetings of the Group.
A sampling of those resources
is provided on the following pages.

Note that there are other resources which might more accurately reflect perspectives which the Pilgrim Group has not found helpful, but which may be helpful for people who do not participate in the Group.

The list is intended to provide a starting place for those who are interested in better understanding:

- The reality of being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning (or queer), or another form of “non-heterosexual” (commonly abbreviated as “lgbtq” or “glbtq”);
- The unreality of various stereotypes and myths about lgbtq experiences, which stereotypes and myths still inform much of the discussion within the Church;
- What the Bible has to say about same-sex intimacy – and what the Bible does *not* say about such behavior;
- The journey of our Mennonite Church, especially since 1986, in understanding the place of its lgbtq members – and the churches which support them; and
- The experiences of, and possibilities in, churches which fully welcome and accept lgbtq people.

Of course, the best way to gain further understanding is to engage with lgbtq people and listen to their experiences, their struggles, their celebrations, their insights, their pain, their testimonies and their prayers. And that is exactly what the Pilgrim Group tries to do in its ministry to lgbtq people, their families and friends, and their allies.

Web Resources on LGBTQ Issues from a Mennonite Perspective:

Roberta Kreider's "Fifteen Reasons Why I Changed My Mind"

<https://christiangays.com/articles/kreider.shtml>

Loren Johns' "Statements of Mennonite Conferences, Boards, and Committees on Homosexuality (1985–2004)"

<http://www.ambs.edu/LJohns/ChurchDocs.htm>

Loren Johns' "A Case Study in the Use of the Bible for Ethics"

<http://www.ambs.edu/Ljohns/Homosexuality.htm>

Brethren Mennonite Council website

<http://www.bmclgbtq.org/index.shtml>

Welcome to Dialogue Series: 8 booklets (also available in print)

<http://www.welcome-committee.info/booklet-index.html>

Ted Grimsrud's Blog on Peace Theology – section on homosexuality

<http://peacetheology.net/homosexuality/>

Young Anabaptist Radicals – a blog site with contributions by a number of authors.

<http://young.anabaptistradicals.org/>

Web Resources on LGBTQ Issues from a wider Christian perspective:

Walter Wink's article on "The Bible and Homosexuality"

<http://forusa.org/content/homosexuality-bible-walter-wink>

Tony and Peggy Campolo's article "Is the Homosexual My Neighbour?"

www.welcomingresources.org/campolo.pdf

"What We Wish We Had Known" (The Blue Book) – from a Presbyterian perspective

http://www.pflagdetroit.org/PDF/Blue_Book.pdf

Institute for Welcoming Resources (check full of resources)

<http://www.welcomingresources.org/>

Blog

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/freedhearts/>

Print Resources Which We Have Found Helpful:

The Cost of Truth – edited by Roberta Kreider. A collection of 32 powerful and personal faith stories of Mennonite and Brethren people who have been denied leadership in the church relating in some way to their sexual orientation or acceptance of LGBTQ people;

Stumbling Toward a Genuine Conversation on Homosexuality – edited by Michael King. Presents a “dialogue” with different perspectives by a number of scholars and pastors within the broader Mennonite communities;

Flying Blind – by Kate McDonald. A handbook on transitioning for transgender people, by a woman who’s been there.

Taking a New Look: Why Congregations Need LGBTQ Members – Christian Community Inc. Congregational leaders are painfully aware of the risks that are involved in a congregation becoming fully welcoming and affirming of LGBTQ people. Much less attention has been focused on what congregations lose by not being welcoming and affirming. Also available on-line at <http://www.manyvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/07/27/2010%20-%2015-54/Taking%20a%20New%20Look.pdf>

Somewhere Else – by Jan Guenther Braun. A novel in which Jess, aged 16, becomes aware that she is in an impossible position – being the lesbian daughter of a prominent Mennonite academic. She hits the road in search of a language and the freedom to speak it.

Torn – by Justin Lee. This personal memoir provides insightful, practical guidance for all committed Christians who wonder how to relate to gay friends or family members – or who struggle with their own sexuality. Convinced that “in a culture that sees gays and Christians as enemies, gay Christians are in a unique position to bring peace,” Lee demonstrates that people of faith on both sides of the debate can respect, learn from, and love one another.

Videos and Movies:

For the Bible Tells Me So: a 2007 film that follows the stories of five families (in the USA), and explores how each of those families relate(d) to their churches and to their lgbtq family members.

Prayers for Bobby: a 2009 television movie about a mother coming to terms with the suicide of her gay son.

No Dumb Questions: a 2001 documentary about three sisters, aged 6, 9 and 11, struggling to understand why and how their Uncle Bill is becoming a woman.

Trans: an extraordinary 2012 documentary feature about the transgender community, perhaps the most misunderstood and mistreated minority around the world.

Groups With a Focus on LGBTQ Issues in Mennonite Circles:

Pilgrim Group: a welcoming group sponsored by Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, meeting monthly (except during holiday seasons).

Harmony Forum: a thoughtful (and moderated) email exchange group for lgbtq issues in Mennonite churches generally, and MC Canada churches specifically, in which an email post is automatically distributed to all members. To join the list, contact Bruce Hiebert at brucehiebert@shaw.ca.

Brethren Mennonite Council/Supportive Communities Network: based in Minneapolis, the SCN is a collection of church groups and congregations across North America which have publicly identified themselves as welcoming and affirming. Their website is <http://www.bmclgbtq.org/scn.shtml>.

Resources Available from Mennonite Church Canada:

Resource Centre: Many of the resources mentioned here are available from the Resource Centre of MC Canada – <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Home>. They have a good “search” function, and when you search “lgbt”, you are directed to this page: <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/QuickSearch?search=lgbt&Search=Search>

Compiled by Bethel’s Pilgrim Group
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