

Sexuality and Sexual Orientation Resources

Note: The United Church of Canada is not responsible for the content of external websites.

TITLE AND SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	FOR USE BY			
		INDIVIDUALS (GENERAL)	CHURCHES AND CLERGY	CHILDREN (GENERAL)	LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA RESOURCES					
Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble http://affirmunited.ause.ca	An organization that works for the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in the United Church and society.	✓	✓		✓
The Affirming Journey (Spring 2018 issue, Mandate magazine) www.ucrdstore.ca	A special issue on LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people and the church. Includes articles, a timeline of LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit Justice in the United Church, Bible studies, worship resources, workshops, and more.	✓	✓		✓
The Authority and Interpretation of Scripture (The United Church of Canada, UCPH, 1992); search “authority interpretation” at https://commons.united-church.ca	A 1992 United Church statement in response to these questions: “What authority does the Bible have for The United Church of Canada” and “How does that authority arise?”.	✓	✓		✓
Daring to be United: Including Lesbians and Gays in The United Church of Canada (Alyson Huntly, UCPH, 1998)	The extreme inner turmoil and struggle the church endured in the 10 years preceding and following this decision is the focus of this book. It includes a collection of voices from across the United Church spectrum presenting members’ accounts of how they experienced <i>The Issue</i> .	✓	✓		✓
International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia—May 17 www.united-church.ca/worship-special-days/international-day-against-homophobia-transphobia-and-biphobia	This day emphasizes that homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia are still the reality in the daily lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans members of our communities. We must work towards creating welcoming and safe places for all people.		✓		
Iridesce: The Living Apology Project www.iridesce.ca Iridesce Theatre Play (video) https://youtu.be/a_WPStoEeD0	All the words of the script for the Iridesce Theatre Play emerged from Iridesce: The Living Apology Project and include the memories and words of some Iridesce participants.	✓	✓		✓
Minutes for Mission 2017: Que(e)rying Religion (video) https://youtu.be/3Lfi5-u0pkY	The Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto offers a safe space for students of all faiths to explore gender identity, sexual orientation, and religious belief.	✓	✓		✓

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Moving Toward Full Inclusion: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in The United Church of Canada, 2nd ed. (The United Church of Canada, UCPH, 2014); search “Moving towards Full Inclusion” at www.united-church.ca	This resource is a history of the United Church's gradual journey toward full inclusion of all people, regardless of sexual orientation. Available as a PDF in Spanish and Korean by request (e-mail justice@united-church.ca).	✓	✓		✓
National Affirming P.I.E. Day—March 14 https://pieday.ca	PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. These are the standards we hold ourselves and our welcome to when we become affirming, welcoming, or inclusive communities. This day is a chance to serve some pie and roll out the PIE by celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people in faith communities and beyond across Canada. Co-founded by Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections.	✓	✓		✓
Of Love and Justice: Toward the Civil Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage (The United Church of Canada, 2003); search “love justice civil marriage” at https://commons.united-church.ca	This congregational guide for study and action includes workshops designed to help participants understand, integrate, and act on the issue of civil recognition of same-sex marriage. Also provides procedural information, a decision-making process, and a workshop to help congregations make an informed decision or set congregational policy regarding same-sex marriage services.	✓	✓		✓
Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries (Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble) http://affirmunited.ause.ca/affirming-ministries-program	This resource aims to help United Church ministries grow and change, to move from merely “welcoming everyone” toward opening their hearts to God’s vision of justice and wholeness.	✓	✓		✓
Passion and Freedom (The United Church of Canada, UCPH, 2003) www.ucrdstore.ca	A faith-based resource that addresses all stages of a committed life partnership, both heterosexual and same-sex.	✓	✓		✓
Pride Sunday—first Sunday in June www.united-church.ca/worship-special-days/pride-sunday	These worship resources and other ideas can help communities of faith to mark this day and celebrate the lives and ministry of LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people.		✓		
ONLINE RESOURCES					
“Hearing Two-Spirits” (<i>Briarpatch</i> , September/October 2012) http://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/hearing-Two-Spirits	A short article on the role of Two-Spirit experiences in resisting colonialism.	✓	✓		✓

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Homosexuality and the Bible (Walter Wink) https://bridges-across.org/ba/wink.htm	The debate over homosexuality raises numerous issues of how we interpret the Bible today.	✓	✓		✓
Let's Talk Sexual Ethics, Part 1 www.generousspace.ca/lets-talk-sex-ethics-part-1	This resource helps cultivate conversations that are honest, open, generous enough to make space for difference, and focused on prioritizing what is life-giving and will contribute to human flourishing.	✓	✓		✓
Let's Talk about Sexual Ethics, Part 2 www.generousspace.ca/lets-talk-about-sexual-ethics-part-2	Centered set sexual ethics enable us to keep on having conversations together about the decisions we're making to steward our sexual lives, even in the midst of people making different choices.	✓	✓		✓
Out in Scripture (Human Rights Campaign) www.hrc.org/resources/entry/out-in-scripture	This resource places comments about the Bible alongside the real-life experiences and concerns of LGBTQ people of faith and allies. With the help of skilled scholars, you will discover a fresh approach to scripture.	✓	✓		✓
ONLINE ORGANIZATIONS					
Amnesty International Canada LGBTI Rights www.amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/lgbti-rights	Amnesty International works to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people by shining a light on rights abuses, calling for policy change, and working to protect LGBTI human rights defenders.	✓	✓		✓
The ArQuives https://arquives.ca	Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archive collects and maintains collections related to LGBTQ2+ life in Canada, including books, archival papers, artifacts, photographs, and art. Founded in 1973, it's currently the largest independent LGBTQ2+ archive in the world.	✓	✓		✓
The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity http://ccgsd-ccdgs.org	The CCGSD promotes diversity in gender identity, gender expression, and romantic and/or sexual orientation in all its forms on a national level through services in the areas of education, health, and advocacy.	✓	✓		✓
The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry www.clgs.org	CLGS provides programming and support for research, resources, education for leadership, and community-building and advocacy (at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA).	✓	✓		✓
COLAGE www.colage.org	COLAGE unites people with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer parents and caregivers into a network of peers, supporting them as they nurture and empower each other to be skilled, self-confident, and just leaders in our collective communities.	✓		✓	✓

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Egale Canada www.egale.ca	Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere—this national organization advances equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-identified people and their families.	✓	✓		✓
Family Pride Collection www.uwo.ca/pridelib/site/Collections/Subject%20Collections/IFamily%20Pride%20Collection.html	An online resource centre for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents and their families housed at the Pride Library at the University of Western Ontario.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fierté Canada Pride http://fiertecanadapride.org	National organisation of Pride festivals	✓	✓	✓	✓
It Gets Better Project https://itgetsbetter.org/get-help	The “It Gets Better” project is a nonprofit organization with a mission to uplift, empower, and connect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth around the globe.	✓	✓		✓
LGBT Aging Issues Network www.asaging.org/lain	A constituent group of the American Society on Aging that raises awareness of the unique concerns of LGBTQ elders.	✓			✓
Institute for Welcoming Resources www.welcomingresources.org	An ecumenical group that provides resources to help facilitate a paradigm shift in several denominations. These resources aim to help churches become welcoming and affirming of all congregants, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.	✓	✓		✓
Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity www.muslimalliance.org	This alliance works to support, empower, and connect LGBTQ Muslims; seeks to challenge root causes of oppression, including misogyny and xenophobia; aims to increase the acceptance of gender and sexual diversity within Muslim communities; and promotes a progressive understanding of Islam that is centered on inclusion, justice, and equality.	✓	✓		✓
PFLAG Canada https://pflagcanada.ca	PFLAG is a national charitable organization founded by parents who wished to help themselves and their family members understand and accept their LGBTQ and Two-Spirit children.	✓	✓		✓
Rainbow Railroad www.rainbowrailroad.com	In the spirit of and in homage to the Underground Railroad, the mission of Rainbow Railroad is to help LGBTQI people around the world seek safe havens from state-enabled violence, murder, or persecution.	✓	✓		✓
The Reformation Project www.reformationproject.org	The Reformation Project is a Bible-based, Christian non-profit organization that seeks to reform church teachings on sexual orientation and gender identity.	✓	✓		✓

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Soulforce www.soulforce.org	Soulforce's goal is to turn this world upside down and inside out in the name of justice and equity for folks across all marginalized racial, sexual, and gender identities.	✓	✓		✓
Generous Space Ministries www.generousspace.ca	Generous Space encourages Christ-centered spiritual formation by inviting people to work together to dismantle fear, division, and hostility at the intersection of faith, gender, and sexuality.	✓	✓		✓
PRINT (books, sermon ideas, worship, workshops, curricula)					
Amazing Grace: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Faith (eds. Malcolm Boyd and Nancy L. Wilson, Crossing Press, 1991)	Discover lesbian and gay spiritual pilgrimages, childhood experiences, mature relationships, sexual awakening, grappling with faith, encounters with social justice, and confrontations with AIDS.	✓	✓		✓
And Tango Makes Three (Justin Richardson, Peter Parnell; Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005) www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-689-87845-9	A true story of two penguins who create a non-traditional family.			✓	
Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships (James V. Brownson, Eerdmans, 2013)	As Brownson presents two sides in the debate (traditionalist and revisionist), he carefully analyzes the seven main Biblical texts that appear to address same-sex relations. Written to serve and inform the ongoing debate in many denominations over the questions of homosexuality, this in-depth study is a useful resource for Christians who seek an informed opinion on this important issue.	✓	✓		✓
Bulletproof Faith: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians (Candace Chellew-Hodge, Jossey-Bass, 2008)	This thoughtful, practical guide shows readers a way through the minefield of condemnation and persecution faced by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Christians and helps foster a faith that is bulletproof—impervious to attacks, yet loving and savvy in its approach.	✓	✓		✓
Congregations Talking about Homosexuality (ed. Beth Ann Gaede, The Alban Institute, 1998)	This book offers a deliberate process and provides case studies for reflection and guidance as a congregation seeks to engage in this conversation.		✓		

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Daddy's Roommate (Michael Willhoite, Alyson Books, 1990) www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-55583-178-3	A young boy talks about his divorced father's new living situation in which the father and his gay roommate share chores, playing, loving, and living.			✓	
Daddy, Papa, and Me (Leslea Newman, Tricycle Press, 2009)	Rhythmic text and illustrations with a universal appeal show a toddler spending the day with their daddies. From hide-and-seek to dress-up, then bath time and a kiss goodnight, there's no limit to what a loving family can do together. Share the loving bond between same-sex parents and their children.			✓	
The Family Book (Todd Parr, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010)	This book celebrates the love we feel for our families and all the different varieties they come in. Whether you have two moms or two dads, a big family or a small family, a clean family or a messy one, Parr assures readers that every family is special in its own unique way.			✓	
The First Stone: Homosexuality and The United Church (Michael Riordan, McClelland & Stewart, 1990)	This work is an insightful collection of impressions, ideas, and illustrations of what went on behind the scenes as members of The United Church of Canada painfully explored the issue of homosexuality and heterosexuality in 1988.	✓	✓		✓
Generous Spaciousness: Responding to Gay Christians in the Church (Wendy Vander Wal-Gritter, Baker Publishing Group, 2014) www.newdirection.ca/shop/generously-spaciousness-responding-to-gay-christians-in-the-church	How can we engage those with whom we might disagree and navigate our journey together in a way that nurtures unity, hospitality, humility, and justice? This book offers a framework for discussing diversity in a gracious way, showing that the church can be a place that welcomes a variety of perspectives on the complex matter of human sexuality. It also offers practical advice for implementing generous spaciousness in churches and organizations.	✓	✓		✓
Girls Will Be Boys Will Be Girls (J.T. Bunnell and Irit Reinheimer, Soft Skull Press, 2004)	For children, a colouring book to challenge the reader to interrogate patriarchal dichotomies of gender and sexual orientation.			✓	
God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships (Matthew Vines, Random House Canada [reprint edition], 2015) www.matthewvines.com	Feeling the tension between his understanding of the Bible and the reality of his same-sex orientation, Vines devoted years of intensive research into what the Bible says about homosexuality. Unique in its affirmation of both an orthodox faith and sexual diversity, God and the Gay Christian is likely to spark heated debate, sincere soul searching, and even widespread cultural change.	✓	✓		✓

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Heather Has Two Mommies (Leslea Newman and Laura Cornell, Candlewick, 2015) www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/249466/heather-has-two-mommies-by-leslea-newman	When Heather and her classmates all draw pictures of their families, not one drawing is the same. It doesn't matter who makes up a family, the teacher says, because "the most important thing about a family is that all the people in it love one another."			✓	
Jesus Acted Up: A Gay and Lesbian Manifesto (Robert Goss, HarperCollins Canada, 1994)	The author calls for "a queer critical reading" to uncover what he believes is the Bible's true message: social justice and love of the marginal, including those in same-sex relationships.	✓	✓		✓
LGBTQ: The Survival Guide for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Teens, 3rd ed. (Kelly Huegel Madrone, Free Spirit Publishing, 2018)	This fully revised and updated third edition includes current information on LGBTQ terminology, evolving understandings of gender identity and sexual identity, LGBTQ rights, and much more.				✓
Love Is an Orientation; Elevating the Conversation with the Gay Community (Andrew Marin and Brian McLaren, IVP Books, 2009)	The author's life changed forever when his three best friends came out to him. Suddenly he was confronted with the GLBT firsthand, and he was compelled to understand how he could reconcile his friends to his faith. This book elevates the conversation between Christianity and the GLBT community, moving the focus from genetics to gospel, where it really belongs.	✓	✓		✓
Mommy, Mama, and Me (Leslea Newman and Carol Thompson, Tricycle Press, 2009) www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-58246-263-9	Shares the loving bond between same-sex parents and their children.			✓	
Our Whole Lives (United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist Association) www.ucc.org/justice_sexuality_education_our-whole-lives	This curriculum series of sexuality education programs is for six age groups: grades K–1, grades 4–6, grades 7–9, grades 10–12, Young Adults, and Adults.		✓	✓	
Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know about Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity (Elizabeth Edman, Beacon Press, 2017)	Edman posits that Christianity, at its scriptural core, incessantly challenges its adherents to rupture false binaries and to "queer" lines that pit people against one another. Thus, Edman asserts that Christianity, far from being hostile to queer people, is itself inherently queer.	✓	✓		✓

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Same-Sex Marriage? A Christian Ethical Analysis (Marvin M. Ellison, Pilgrim Press, 2004) www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/same-sex-marriage-a-christian-ethical-analysis-ellison	From a theological and ethical perspective, the author offers a forum to explore same-sex marriage.	✓			
Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs-Christians Debate (Justin Lee, Jericho Books, 2013)	The author recalls the events—coming out to his parents, experiences with the “ex-gay” movement, and his in-depth study of the Bible—that led him, eventually, to self-acceptance. He provides insightful, practical guidance for all committed Christians and demonstrates that people of faith on both sides of the debate can respect, learn from, and love one another.	✓	✓		✓
What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality (Daniel Helminiak, Alamo Square Press, 2000) http://visionsofdaniel.net/bookWBRS.htm	Based on recent scholarship, Daniel Helminiak shares insights around the issue of homosexuality and the Bible.	✓	✓		✓
LGBTQIA+ AND TWO-SPIRIT AFFIRMING FAITH-BASED GROUPS					
Affirmation https://affirmation.org	Mormons/Latter-day Saints	✓	✓		✓
BMC www.bmcigbt.org	Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests	✓	✓		✓
Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms www.c-abf.ca	Baptist	✓	✓		✓
Dignity Canada www.dignitycanada.org	Roman Catholic	✓	✓		✓
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/friends-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-queer-concerns	Quaker	✓	✓		✓
Generous Space Ministry www.generousspace.ca	Open to people of all faiths	✓	✓		✓
Institute for Judaism and Sexual Orientation www.huc.edu/ijsi/inclusion	Reform Judaism	✓	✓		✓

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Keshet www.keshetonline.org	Judaism	✓	✓		✓
Proud Anglicans www.proudanglicans.ca	Anglican Church of Canada	✓	✓		✓
Metropolitan Community Church www.mcccchurch.org	Metropolitan Community Churches (see also MCC Toronto www.mcctoronto.com)	✓	✓		✓
PCC for Inclusion www.pccforinclusion.com	Presbyterian	✓	✓		✓
Reconciling Works www.reconcilingworks.org	Lutherans for full participation (North America)	✓	✓		✓
Salaam Canada www.salaamcanada.info	Muslim				
SDA Kinship International www.sdakinship.org	Seventh-day Adventist	✓	✓		✓
Welcoming Congregations http://cuc.ca/welcoming-congregations	Canadian Unitarian Council	✓	✓		✓
Welcoming and Affirming Baptists www.awab.org	Baptists	✓	✓		✓
LGBTQ+ AFFIRMING SUMMER CAMPS					
<i>Some United Church outdoor ministries (camps) are currently in the process of becoming Affirming Ministries (http://affirmunited.ause.ca/affirming-ministries-program). The United Church locator lists these (www.united-church.ca/search/locator).</i>					
Rainbow Camp, Northern Ontario www.welcomefriend.ca/camp	Welcome Friend Association's <i>Rainbow Camp</i> is a one-week camp for young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, Two-Spirit, and plus; allied youth; and siblings and children in queer families. Sponsors include The United Church of Canada and Affirm United.			✓	✓
CampOUT!, Camp Fircom, Gambier Island, British Columbia http://campout.ubc.ca	A social justice summer camp for queer, trans, Two-Spirit, questioning, and allied youth ages 14–21 from British Columbia and the Yukon Territories.			✓	✓
Camp Caterpillar, Camp Tapawingo, Saskatchewan www.camptapawingo.net/camp-caterpillar	A camp for kids of all genders with a few exciting differences that make for a particularly wonderful environment for gender-creative, trans, Two-Spirit, and genderqueer campers, as well as their siblings and friends, allies, and children of queer parents.			✓	✓
Camp Dragonfly Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, Edmonton, Alberta www.camp-dragonfly.com	A two-day summer camp opportunity for trans and gender-creative children, siblings, friends, and caregivers who have a shared lived experience. Campers join each other in creativity, celebration, and connection.				

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Camp fYrefly, Saskatchewan www.usask.ca/education/firefly Camp fYrefly, Alberta www.ualberta.ca/camp-fyrefly	A summer leadership retreat for sexual and gender minority and allied youth.			✓	✓
Ten Oaks Project, Eagle Lake, Ontario www.tenoaksproject.org	A one-week sleep-away camp for children and youth ages 8–17 from LGBTQ+ identities, families, and communities (located west of Ottawa).			✓	✓