

I Want to Learn Something:

General resources – all include links to other useful resources

Type	Title	Source type	Link	
Website	Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)	Intersectional Justice UMC related	https://rmnetwork.org/	<p>Reconciling Ministries Network is committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.</p> <p>The website contains a resource library (some items are included below), information about RMN and how to become a reconciling community, and opportunities to join and financially support RMN.</p>
Website Glossary of Terms	PFLAG	Good for LGBTQIA+ & families	https://pflag.org/ https://pflag.org/glossary/	<p>PFLAG works to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.</p> <p>Extensive glossary of current (and outdated “harmful”) terms</p>
Website	Strong Family Alliance	Good for LGBTQIA+ & families, teachers & others RMN related	https://www.strongfamilyalliance.org/	<p>Strong Family Alliance is an organization with a simple mission – to save lives and preserve families by helping children come out and parents become informed supporters and allies. The website provides parents and LGBTQ people accurate information, insights on this challenging transition for both parents and children, ways to keep LGBTQ children safe and healthy, and encouragement for parents to lead with love and solve problems over time. Information and guidance is non-political, research-based.</p>
Website	My Kid is Gay .com	Good for LGBTQIA+ & families, teachers & others	https://www.mykidisgay.com/	<p>An extensive digital presence, inclusive of videos, advice, and resources, dedicated exclusively toward helping parents understand their Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual children (and those of any age!). Includes voices from across the world to help answer the many questions that parents (and family members, teachers, and others!) have about the LGBTQIA young people in their life, including advice from parents, youth, and experts on a variety of topics related to sexuality and gender identity. Sources in Spanish as well.</p>

Resources from United Methodist related sources

Type	Title	Source type	Link	
Toolkit	Youth Leaders Toolkit	UMC related Reconciling Ministries Network	https://rmnetwork.org/resources/youth-leaders-toolkit/	A web document with numerous links to resources, this outlines various tools for your use as a youth leader working with LGBTQ+ students and their families. All designed to support, educate and equip you as a youth leader. As ministry contexts vary there might be areas that you need now and others that you might come back to in the future. Every section builds on the previous one, but it's not a book that must be read straight through. Find and use what you need.
Toolkit	LGBTQ+ Christian Teen Toolkit	UMC related Reconciling Ministries Network	https://rmnetwork.org/resources/resource-toolkit-for-lgbtq-christian-teens/ From this page on the RMN website, click the colored button labeled "Resource" to access the toolkit.	Written by LGBTQ+ youth ministers and church leaders and awesome youth advisors, this Toolkit covers major topics a young person might encounter while learning about their sexual and/or gender identity. This is a great resource for any LGBTQ+ teen but especially for those who are new on their journey. We want you to know that we see you, we support you, and we affirm you. No matter how you ended up here or where you are in this journey, God loves you!
Book	<u>Holy Love, a Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality</u>	UMC related Author: Rev. Dr. Steve Harper	https://www.cokesbury.com/Holy-Love Available at WNNC Resource Center https://wncc.library.site/	There are other ways to interpret scripture faithfully with respect to sexuality other than the conservative interpretation. In Holy Love, Steve Harper strives to articulate the truth about the teachings of the Bible and Wesleyan tradition on human sexuality
Book	<u>Together at the Table</u>	UMC related Author: Bishop Karen Oliveto	https://www.cokesbury.com/Together-at-the-Table Available at WNNC Resource Center https://wncc.library.site/	UMC Bishop Oliveto believes that the church can stay together—that people of different convictions can remain in communion with one another. Woven together with her own story of coming out and following God's call to ordained ministry is her guidance for how to live together despite differences—by practicing empathy, living with ambiguity, appreciating the diversity of creation, and embracing unity without uniformity.
Six 50-minute videos	"Faithful & Inclusive"	UMC related Author: Rev Dr Rob Fuquay	https://institutefordiscipleship.org/dvd/ Available at WNNC Resource Center https://wncc.library.site/	Faithful and Inclusive allows you to gain an understanding of how United Methodists can be both obedient to God's Word and fully welcoming to LGBTQ persons in the church. Includes a leader guide. Participant guide available online.
Book	<u>How to They Them: A Visual Guide to Nonbinary Pronouns and the World of Gender Fluidity</u>	Recommended by RMN Author: Stuart Getty	https://www.amazon.com/How-They-Them-Nonbinary-Pronouns/dp/1632173131 Also, a great video interview of Stuart followed by panel discussion on Parent Venture YouTube channel https://youtu.be/iFesXHmvfUY?si=XUIdx6cwGOEy5mDn	What does nonbinary really mean? What is gender nonconforming? And isn't they a plural pronoun? In this charming and disarming guide, a real-life they-using genderqueer writer unpacks all your burning questions in a fun, visual way.

Online	“Say More: Talking About Why LGBTQ Inclusion Matters”	UMC related Reconciling Ministries Network	https://rmnetwork.org/resources/say-more/	Workbook & facilitator guide. Resource to support you and your community as you engage in thoughtful reflection and conversation around LGBTQ+ inclusion. Developed by Rev. Dr. Tiffany Steinwert. Say More is for communities and congregations who want to begin or continue facilitating conversation around LGBTQ+ inclusion. Whether this is your first time, or one opportunity among hundreds, we all benefit when we allow the stories of others to touch us deeply while also sharing our own reflection, testimony, and witness.
Book	<u>God Does Love Me: My Trans Journey To Finding My True Self</u>	Author: Rev. Dawn J Flynn	https://www.amazon.com/God-Does-Love-Me-Journey/dp/147748874X	The transgender story of a former Western NC Conference UMC pastor, now ordained in the Metropolitan Community Church.
Book	<u>Parenting Transgender Children: A Guide to Keeping Your Family Strong</u>	Reconciling Ministries Network related Strong Family Alliance Authors: Janet Duke, Shailagh Clarke PhD, and Jennifer Gamewell LPC	https://www.amazon.com/Parenting-Transgender-Children-Keeping-Family-ebook/dp/B0B8M3P4V1 The church has 2 copies, check its library or with a clergy member. Some components of the book available on the Strong Family Alliance website at https://www.strongfamilyalliance.org/parent-guide-trans/	The author, Janet Duke, is the founder of the Strong Family Alliance and serves on the board of Reconciling Ministries Network. This book is a great resource for anyone (not just parents) looking to understand and support nonbinary and transgender individuals (not just children). Full of factual, useful information like basic terminology, actions that help or hurt, answers to questions even those you didn't think to ask, strategies for sharing with others or handling personal attacks....
Streamed videos with discussion guides	“Theology, Identity, & Me: An Affirming Study of Gender, Sex, and Human Sexuality”	UMC Related RMN	https://courses.lakelandsinstitute.com/product/theology-identity-me/	3 streamed videos and discussion guides, which introduce important human sexuality and gender terms and concepts pertinent to the LGBTQ+ community. As a participant or group leader, you're invited to consider each presenter's unique context and theologies while you evaluate your own identities and relationship to this important material. Developed in league with LGBTQ+ and affirming theologians and pastors, “Theology, Identity, and Me: An Affirming Study of Gender, Sex, and Human Sexuality” (TIM) is a deep exploration of Christian thought, natural sciences, and Church history. The video series' dynamic narrators provide thoughtful and unbiased guidance through important topics that may be otherwise complex to navigate with church audiences.

Book & video series	<u>Reclaiming Church</u>	UMC related Author: JJ Warren	https://www.cokesbury.com/Reclaiming-Church Available at WNNC Resource Center https://wncc.library.site/	JJ, a cisgender gay man, is a provisional member of the UMC's New England conference. His book and related videos, provide the perspective of a 20-something seminary student.
YouTube videos	numerous	UMC related Reconciling Ministries Network & Parent Reconciling Network (PRN)	https://www.youtube.com/@rmnvideos <i>specific recommendations:</i> Gender 101 (3-part) Session 1 https://youtu.be/GtUCB_6K2yY?si=ahXhZLKuTZrL3kP Session 2 https://youtu.be/LitSzhjeF7E?si=LPzBU2kX8ZNyysAw Session 3 https://youtu.be/TXB8W-me4Pk?si=miWyAcFEkAPoPzrs PRN Virtual Porches Liz Dyer, Momma Bears co founder https://youtu.be/DNF17mz6ETE?si=15HnGvTtf2va5fan Trevor Project https://youtu.be/9OQae6oOIFl?si=lkD2r-yw9QOCf_uu Sharing Your Story https://youtu.be/gOYwt3D8svQ?si=LsmD794r7Wn55cj6 Marriage & the Bible https://youtu.be/050it9znkTg?si=w5Aw2GFebUISGzT5	<p>Lots of videos of sessions run/hosted by RMN, as well as PRN's virtual porch videos.</p> <p>You can watch independently or put together a discussion series comprising several of these videos (some ideas listed to the left). They're all fairly long, so best if participants watch at home, then come together to view excerpts and discuss. Would require facilitator to prep the questions & excerpts.</p>

Resources from other faith traditions and secular sources

Type	Title	Source type	Link	
Book	<u>Torn:Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate</u>	Author: Justin Lee	https://www.amazon.com/Torn-Rescuing-Gospel-Gays-vs-Christians-Debate-dp-1546006907/dp/1546006907/ref=dp_ob_title_bk	<p>An evangelical Christian examines the impact of sexuality, the LGBTQ+ movement, and the future of the church in this thoughtful, deeply researched guide to navigating and mending the social and political division in our families and churches. Filled with personal stories and careful research. Updated in 2024, with original published in 2013</p> <p>You can find more from Justin online at www.GeekyJustin.com, on Facebook at Justin Lee, and on YouTube at GeekyJustin. His earlier podcast show is still available under GeekyJustinLive.</p>
book	<u>Walking the Bridgeless Canyon</u>	Author: Kathy Baldock	<p>https://canyonwalkerconnections.com/product/walking-the-bridgeless-canyon-repairing-the-breach-between-the-church-and-the-lgbt-community-paperback-new-cover-design-2021/</p> <p>Or you can buy the book in whole or parts (& a participant guide) on Amazon https://www.amazon.com/Walking-Bridgeless-Canyon-Repairing-community/dp/1951136012</p>	<p>Kathy, a straight, cisgender, Evangelical Christian, uncovers the historical, cultural, medical, and political filters of discrimination through which the LGBTQ community is seen.</p> <p>With a foundational context firmly established, she examines the most controversial filter of all: what the Bible says about same-sex behavior.</p>
Podcast series	“Sister of Thunder”	Podcasters: Kathy Baldock & Yvette Cantu Schneider	https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFqSvKiowXh40l5US_Gbc_1-ilppdlqSm	9 part series – Kathy and Yvette discuss issues related to LGBTQ history, faith, psychology, sociology, medicine, and social issues. Great resource for audio learners.
video	“Unclobbering the Tangled Mess: the History of Cultural and Religious Discrimination against the LGBTQ Community in America”	Teacher: Kathy Baldock	<p>Two part videos: Part 1 https://youtu.be/MBwajcvZtqw Part 2 https://youtu.be/3JTBpomMH5c?si=GcmrFMIZP4f2jSIA</p>	<p>Another Incredibly detailed Kathy Baldock resource.</p> <p>Both videos are about 2 hours, 20 minutes long. This is the foundation for her second book, <u>Forging a Sacred Weapon, How the Bible became Anti-Gay</u> (not yet published as of Spring 2024)</p>

Books	<u>God & the Gay Christian</u> <u>The Bible & Same Sex Relationships</u> <u>The Bible & Transgender Inclusion</u>	Reformation Project Author: Matthew Vine	https://bit.ly/ReformationProjectGodandtheGayChristian https://bit.ly/The-Bible-and-Same-Sex-Relationships https://bit.ly/The-Bible-and-Transgender-Inclusion	Matthew is the founder of The Reformation Project a Bible-based, Christian organization with a mission to advance LGBTQ inclusion in the church. You can learn more at https://reformationproject.org/
Videos	various	The Reformation Project	https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=reformation+project	Various videos, many from speakers hosted at their annual conferences over the years
video	<u>“Untangling the Mess”</u>	Speaker: Kathy Baldock	A 2016 presentation to The Reformation Project Conference (~`90 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziCOOdUW8OA	Kathy Baldock unrolls an 18-foot timeline and helps us make sense of political, religious, and social milestones from the Old Testament through 2016
Video	The Reformation Project’s 2015 Keynote Address	Speaker: Rev. Nicole Garcia	https://youtu.be/NbtSdgOC5pl?si=3LxL1HXv5KJVlezG	Raised in Colorado in an Hispanic, Roman Catholic family, Nicole Garcia identifies as a Queer Transgender Latina and is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Fiction	<u>This is How it Always Is</u>	Author: Laurie Frankel	https://www.amazon.com/This-How-Always-LAURIE-FRANKEL/dp/1250088569	A novel about a family with a transgender child and the challenges they face.

I want to do something:

- 1) Talk WITH individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community. Get to know folks as complete individuals. From an Inclusive Grace member in the community, "Talk with us, not about us. Have an open, honest conversation."
- 2) Join Inclusive Grace. Organize an activity or lead a group discussion for the ministry.
- 3) Invite someone in Inclusive Grace to speak with your small group or Sunday School class.
- 4) Get involved with LGBTQIA+ organizations (volunteer, host a homeless youth, donate, provide meals, fulfill a youth's Christmas wishlist...):
 - a) Reconciling Ministries Network <https://rmnetwork.org/>
 - b) PFLAGG We are parents, families, friends, and allies. We are straight, lesbian, gay and bisexual. We are cisgender, transgender, and nonbinary. We are strengthening families, empowering allies, and elevating LGBTQ+ communities. <https://pflagcharlotte.org/>
 - c) Transcend Charlotte- pursuing social justice and equity for trans and gender expansive communities (ages 18+) <https://www.transcendcharlotte.org/>
 - d) Timeout youth - The mission of **Time Out Youth Center** (3800 Monroe Road) is to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth (ages 13-24) by offering vital programs, fostering unconditional acceptance, and creating safe spaces for self-expression through leadership, community support and advocacy. They welcome volunteers. <https://www.timeoutyouth.org/Volunteer>
- 5) Get involved with The Relatives at one of their shelters or their uptown drop-in center. A high percentage of homeless youth are LGBTQ.
- 6) Support Charlotte Pride (typically 3rd weekend in August). ~ Attend Charlotte Pride's Interfaith Service. ~ Love and support parade attendees by joining with local UMC churches at First UMC uptown to provide cool refreshments. ~ Donate to Pride <https://charlottepride.org/>
- 7) Show your welcoming and affirming spirit to others
 - a) add a rainbow heart cling on your MUMC car magnet or place a pride symbol/flag magnet/sticker near it.
 - b) wear a rainbow ichthys pin or rainbow stole while at church
 - c) add your pronouns to your church nametag and or add your rainbow pin to it
- 8) Include your personal pronouns when introducing yourself and on your email signature (she/hers, he/him, they/them...).
- 9) When you meet someone new, ask for their pronouns (don't assume). Use someone's pronouns and name, it validates who they are-that you SEE and acknowledge them. Avoid the term "preferred pronouns."
- 10) If you're a political junkie, consider joining MeckPAC's efforts to expand and protect the rights of LGBTQ people in the region. **MeckPAC** is Mecklenburg County's LGBTQ political action committee, and it regularly issues endorsements of candidates and lobbies area governing councils on legislation favorable to the gay and transgender communities. <https://www.facebook.com/meckpac>
- 11) Lead a small group discussion on a related topic, book, video, etc. (see ideas under I want to learn)
- 12) Watch a movie, theater or choral performance pertaining to the LGBTQ community, like Considering Matthew Shepard by Craig Hella Johnson, then discuss among your small group.