

The *Hesed* Project

Start a Conversation in Your Church

Are you wondering what you can do to learn more and engage with others in your congregation? Perhaps you are not sure or undecided or see both sides, yet feel confused and disoriented by the decisions of Synod 2022 because you see the harm that is being done to our LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ.

Below you will find a video that shares how one Christian Reformed Church has been on a journey toward inclusion of all people and its results after a survey. They've been engaged in conversations for over a decade. It hasn't always been easy, but they've decided to have this challenging conversation in love and humility.

If you are looking for a book or two that you could use to engage with others in conversations, you will find a couple of suggestions below. Education is key. Ponder what you read and approach conversations with grace and humility. Here are some good books to start a discussion. Gather a small group of people. Read. Discuss. Ask questions. LISTEN to the Spirit.

Note: More books will be added to the Learn page soon.

Video

Jubilee Christian Reformed Church Video

Jubilee CRC has been on a journey for the past decade. They recently created this video to share the findings of a survey that was sent to their members. They understand that not all people are in agreement on all things, but their video models one way to promote a spirit of grace, humility, love and listening in the midst of disagreement. *Books*



Books

(See next page)

Changing Our Mind by Dr. David P Gushee

https://www.amazon.ca/Changing-Our-Mind-Definitive-Christians/dp/1942011849/ref=pd_lpo_14_t_0/142-2235632-0914010?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=1942011849&pd_rd_r=f4d52dcc-fbaa-4da1-a0a4-ebd39ac76bf2&pd_rd_w=rYxjp&pd_rd_wg=tgk8x&pf_rd_p=55ea5ed7-d8ce-4183-b0cf-37e635680f3e&pf_rd_r=D9EAB0SNXEQ3TF3M3Q9M&psc=1&refRID=D9EAB0SNXEQ3TF3M3Q9M

Dr. David P. Gushee is an ethicist, pastor, author and advocate. His book has helped many individual Christians and congregations to compassionately rethink religious teachings that have harmed the LGBTQ+ community. He shares the historical and cultural contexts of the verses in the Bible that mention what are known to many as the ‘Clobber Passages’. This book offers hope and healing to those who’ve been affected by the church.

To learn more about Dr. Gushee, here is a link to his bio.

<https://davidpgushee.com/about/#bio>

If you want to get a sense of what the book is about before reading it, watch and listen to him speak on YouTube at a gathering for The Reformation Project.



Walking the Bridgeless Canyon: Repairing the Breach between the Church and the LGBTQ Community by Kathy Baldock

https://www.amazon.ca/Walking-Bridgeless-Canyon-Repairing-community/dp/1951136012/ref=sr_1_1?

Kathy has devoted herself to learning about the historical context of how the church has come to have the views they do about the LGBTQ community. She has done thorough research to uncover the historical, cultural, medical, and political filters of discrimination through which the LGBTQ community is seen. She lays the foundation and then examines what the Bible says about same-sex behaviour. There is a companion study guide for individuals and groups to go with the book including a nine section discussion and study series.

Walking the Bridgeless Canyon: A Group Discussion Guide for Personal, Group & Bible Study Use by Kathy Baldock

https://www.amazon.ca/Walking-Bridgeless-Canyon-Discussion-Personal-ebook/dp/B07TSV58J5/ref=sr_1_11?

[crid=16B2FJ8RG8J3T&keywords=kathy+baldock&qid=1659202547&srefix=kathy+bal%2Caps%2C196&sr=8-11](https://www.amazon.ca/Walking-Bridgeless-Canyon-Discussion-Personal-ebook/dp/B07TSV58J5/ref=sr_1_11?crid=16B2FJ8RG8J3T&keywords=kathy+baldock&qid=1659202547&srefix=kathy+bal%2Caps%2C196&sr=8-11)

The nine segment study guide can be used for personal or group use (and at the time of this writing is free on Amazon Kindle!) Participants are assigned between 25-80 pages of the main book, followed by review and related questions. The tone of this study guide is gracious.