

Resources for *God in love unites us* conversations and study

This is a quick guide to the resources available to support study of and conversations around the *God in love unites us* report.

The report and study guide from the Connexion are available from <https://www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19/> along with links to many other resources, past reports and the [video](#) showing the work of the Task Group who compiled the report.

The resolutions that are being consulted on are [two](#) about good relating and cohabitation and [three](#) concerning the next steps for the Methodist Church, including allowing for different understandings of marriage and the ability to marry same-sex couples for those churches and ministers/officers who wish to do so.

The Consultation Process

- Circuit
 - Responses from churches and individuals in the Circuit are being collated and summarised to help inform those lay people and ministers who are members of District Synod.
- Synod
 - Synod will vote on the five provisional resolutions – either to approve or reject them or propose alternative amendments.
 - This was originally scheduled for March 28th. This has now been reconvened as part 2 of the Autumn Synod and will take place online on 10th October at 2pm.
- Conference
 - Representatives from all the Districts will take a final vote on the resolutions, taking into account any amendments that are made.

The questions to be answered

It's important to recognise where the Methodist Church already is and ask ourselves:

- Do we acknowledge the previous decisions our church has made, and the church that we currently are as we experience it!
- To recognise and ask whether we can live with contradictory convictions?

Further resources

Methodist Groups with resources:

- Dignity and Worth (<https://dignityandworth.org.uk/>)
 - A new group of Methodists committed to the full dignity and worth of every person, whatever their sexuality or gender identity.
 - Have a 12-page leaflet *The Case for Change* and a 35-page study guide *United in Love*.
- Methodist Evangelicals Together (MET) (<https://www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk/>)
 - A renewal movement; Bible-based and prayer-focussed, equipping and encouraging evangelicals in Methodism.
 - Have a 4-page leaflet and 20-page study guide, both under the title *Remaining Faithful*.

Books and Websites

Martin Davie *Glorify God in Your Body: human identity, and flourishing in marriage, singleness, and friendship* (2018) Lost Coin Books. Also available to download from the Church of England Evangelical Council's website. See ceec.info/

The Methodist Church: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Toolkit, Module 7.1 *Sexual Orientation case studies* (See methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/guidance-for-churches/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/edi-toolkit/)

Thomas Noble *Marriage, Family and Relationships: Biblical, doctrinal and contemporary perspectives* (2017) InterVarsity Press

Matthew Vines *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical case in support of same-sex relationships* (2015) Convergent Books

Biblical Interpretation

- The Cumbria District [Study Guide](#) has further resources, particularly around different ways of reading the Bible.
- Accepting Evangelicals has several articles about [biblical interpretation](#). A short series *The Bible Says No* and a longer article published in *Anvil* in 2014. The link on the website is broken, use [this link](#) instead.
- [Open Church Network](#) is a conversation exploring the inclusive and transformative love of God – from Steve Chalke and Oasis. See [this page](#) for resources on Gender & Sexuality.

Videos and Songs

- Nadia Bolz-Weber – *One Extraordinary Church* film ([YouTube](#))
- Macklemore and Ryan Lewis – song [Same Love](#) (particularly suitable for young people)
- Films such as *The Imitation Game* and *Pride*
- The full version of the conversation between Paul Smith and Sam McBratney is available at <https://soundcloud.com/flying-cassowary>. This also contains a reflection on the report from Sam.

News articles and responses

How the Bible Became Anti-Gay: Forging a Sacred Weapon:

[An article](#) about how the NRSV added the word 'homosexual' in 1952. This includes a trailer for an upcoming film about this and a couple of YouTube videos.

Yorkshire farmer's diary from 1810 rewriting gay history:

[BBC report](#) of a farmer's conversations and tolerance of homosexuality

Lizzie Lowe killed herself thinking the church wouldn't accept she was gay

News report from [Manchester Evening News](#)

Lizzie was a teenager and part of St James & Emmanuel Church in Didsbury when she killed herself in 2014. Since then, the church has been on a journey of transformation. There are some [videos](#) and a page about their [approach to inclusion](#) on their website.

Feedback

Please provide any feedback to Niall Briggs by 30th August, either by email (mission@nexusbath.org.uk) or using [this online form](#).

Document created by Niall Briggs, 17th August 2020.