Overview

Preamble
At the CBWC 2013 Assembly it was mandated “that the CBWC Board facilitate meaningful discussion in regard to same gender attracted individuals and church engagement and pastoral care. Further, that the CBWC Board seek ways as a denomination to provide resources for churches and individuals for this journey which is challenging for all.” In the year that followed a committee was formed which created the material that you will find below. This material was presented at The Gathering in 2015 and the website link became active immediately afterwards.

To be clear, the CBWC upholds the Biblical view of marriage as a covenant before God between one man and one woman. We also recognize that we are called to love and welcome everyone who holds different perspectives than ours.

The following list of the resources provides a variety of perspectives including those that offer opposing conclusions to our view. We were mandated by the Assembly to facilitate meaningful discussion and therefore we have made room for voices that disagree with our conclusion. We do so with the hope that informed conversation and loving dialogue might take place.

Within our Baptist understanding of “soul liberty” and congregational autonomy, we anticipate that many voices and perspectives will participate in our discussion of gender identity and sexual attraction. We know that healthy dialogue takes energy, careful research and a determination to understand those who disagree with us, so that our ignorance does not hinder mutual respect and relationship. In no way do we endorse the views that disagree with our understanding of marriage, but we do encourage everyone to understand that there are other perspectives within our family. The links that follow are offered with this hopeful intention in mind and are provided with theological markings that indicate their main perspective.

There may be more current writings as the complexities of issues continue to arise, but this resource was assembled by committee in 2015 and may not be regularly updated.

Explanation of Theology Markings
- **Traditional** means that the resource advocates a range of responses, such as celibacy, heterosexuality, therapy, non-sexual partnerships.
- **Affirming** means it advocates for same-sex marriages or covenants.
- **Diverse Viewpoints** means it advocates unity in the face of diverse opinions.

These resources provide tools and process ideas for having healthy individual or group conversations.

Difficult Conversations: Core Resources
The first resource is a book based on leadership research for one-on-one conversations, the second is a faith based, webpage with helpful principles for dialogue, and the third is a web-page providing various ideas for how a group can engage this conversation.


Difficult Conversations: Other Resources
This is the broadest listing of resources aiming to introduce pastors and leaders to the scope of conversations happening around this topic.

**Pastors and Leaders: Core Resources**


**Pastors and Leaders: Other Resources**


**Difficult Conversations: Other Resources (Continued)**

Pastors and Leaders: Other Resources (Continued)

- Gushee, David. Ending the Teaching of Contempt Against the Church’s Sexual Minorities. 2014 (Theology: Affirming).
Pastors and Leaders: Other Resources (Continued)


Family, Friends and Pastoral Care: Core Resources

Our top recommendations include: 1) a compassionate psychologist, Mark Yarhouse, from a traditional theological position helps families navigate a celibate lifestyle; 2) Andrew Marin stresses the primary need to love the SSA friend genuinely; 3) Susan Cottrell, the mother of a gay son, helps parents to love and support their child while at the same time differing in their beliefs.

Family, Friends and Pastoral Care

Family, Friends and Pastoral Care: Other Resources

• Marin Foundation Website: themarinfoundation.org Sourced March 11, 2015. (Theology: Traditional).

Same-Sex Attracted Christians

Same-Sex Attracted Christians: Core Resources

Understanding the complexities of SSA, we’ve chosen two resources from a Christian psychologist who has compassionately helped individuals to navigate a traditional sexual ethic, a self-identified gay Christian who has chosen celibacy because of his theological convictions, and a gay Christian who respects celibacy but personally chooses an affirming position.

Same-Sex Attracted Christians: Other Resources

Biblical Interpretation: Core Resources


Biblical Interpretation: Other Resources