

## CELEBRATION OF LOVES AND RELATIONS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

"My dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the shadow of the cliff,  
let me see you, all of you!  
Let me hear your voice,  
your delicious song.  
I love to look at you." (Song of Solomon 2:14 Bloch/Bloch trans.)

### LAMENTATION FOR SEXUAL OPPRESSION

Dear God, we pray to you in sorrow for the pain and isolation of every gay man and lesbian woman, every bisexual or transgendered woman or man who has been rejected from the church because of fear or false judgment.

**WE MOURN FOR THE ANGUISH OF THOSE WHO BELIEVED GOD WAS LOVE AND FOUND THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TURNED ON THEM IN HATE.**

We grieve for all human beings who heard the message that they were an abomination to God and tried to destroy themselves

**FOR EVERYONE WHO, BELIEVING IT WAS THE WAY TO GOD, DENIED THEIR HEARTFELT DESIRE, REPRESSED FEELINGS, HOPES, LOVE, AND PASSION, WE CRY OUT IN LAMENTATION.**

Heal, restore, renew each one who has been injured by the sexual oppression of the church.

**CALL THE CHURCH BACK FROM MAKING GRACE INTO LAW AND LOVE INTO VIOLENCE.**

Transform the Christian community into a sanctuary for those who are denied fullness of life.  
**THOSE WHO ARE REJECTED BY SOCIETY.**

Those who are falsely judged.

**THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DISOWNED BY THEIR FAMILIES.**

Bring us all together into the New Community for which we long,

**WHOSE LAW IS LOVE AND WHOSE RELIGION IS JUSTICE. AMEN.**

### PRAYER:

Holy One, when have we seen or felt your elusive presence? Your heart is hidden from us, your Being invisible, your purpose difficult to discern. We pray to you today for all those who live in hiding, unknown, not cared for, whose joys and sorrows are lived out in forced solitude, and who cannot be present in the world as themselves without harsh rejection.

O hidden, unknown, misunderstood God, whom the world denies and whose very presence many seek to banish: Comfort those who share your fate. Do not be hidden to those who must hide, but in the clefts of the rock and the shadow of the cliff abide with them. You are their companion in isolation imposed by others. Empower us, O God, to make the world a place where all people are welcomed, where silenced voices are heard, and the true beauty of hidden faces are seen with joy.

**AMEN.**

## INDEX OF ATTITUDES TOWARD LGBT<sup>1</sup> PERSONS

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This questionnaire is designed to measure the way you feel about working or associating with LGBT persons. It is not a test, so there are no right or wrong answers. Answer each item as carefully and as accurately as you can by placing a number beside each one as follows.

- 1 = Strongly agree
- 2 = Agree
- 3 = Neither agree nor disagree
- 4 = Disagree
- 5 = Strongly disagree

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel comfortable working closely with a gay man.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I would enjoy attending social functions at which LGBT persons were present.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel uncomfortable if I learned that my neighbor was LGBT.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ If a member of my sex made a sexual advance toward me I would feel angry.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel comfortable knowing that I was attractive to members of my sex.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel uncomfortable being seen in a gay bar.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel comfortable if a member of my sex made an advance toward me.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ I would be comfortable if I found myself attracted to a member of my sex.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel disappointed if I learned that my child was LGBT.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel nervous being in a group of LGBT persons.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel comfortable knowing that my clergy person was LGBT.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ I would be upset if I learned that my brother or sister was LGBT.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel that I had failed as a parent if I learned that my child was LGBT.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ If I saw two men holding hands in public I would feel disgusted.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ If a member of my sex made an advance toward me I would be offended.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel comfortable if I learned that my daughter's teacher was lesbian.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel uncomfortable if I learned that my spouse or partner was attracted to members of his or her sex.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel at ease talking with a LGBT person at a party.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel uncomfortable if I learned that my boss was LGBT.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ It would not bother me to walk through a predominantly LGBT section of town.
21. \_\_\_\_\_ It would disturb me to find out that my doctor was LGBT.
22. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel comfortable if I learned that my best friend of my sex was LGBT.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ If a member of my sex made an advance toward me I would feel flattered.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel uncomfortable knowing that my son's male teacher was gay.
25. \_\_\_\_\_ I would feel comfortable working closely with a lesbian woman.

3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24.

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<sup>1</sup> LGBT = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transsexual.

TWO DIFFERENT PARADIGMS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION  
IN RESPONSE TO HOMOSEXUALITY AND HOMOSEXUAL CHRISTIANS

<b>Framework A</b>	<b>Framework B</b>
<p><b>Starting Point:</b> God's Law, God's Righteousness Confronted by Reality of Sin; Sin = Homosexuality, Homosexual Acts</p>	<p><b>Starting Point:</b> God's Compassion at the heart of the Gospel Confronted by reality of Injustice ("sinned against") Sin = Homophobia, Heterosexism</p>
<p><b>Focus:</b> On Morality of Acts, <i>external</i> criteria (the form of the act) Homosexual Acts are <i>Intrinsically</i> Wrong</p>	<p><b>Focus:</b> Just and Compassionate Relationships What is "fitting" in light of a given relationship?</p>
<p><b>God's Law:</b> Unchanging; Don't challenge What God Established God's Law reveals and convicts Sin (homosexuality) - reveals what is natural vs. unnatural</p>	<p><b>God's Law:</b> Promotes/protects human well-being (care for neighbor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• right relationship</li> <li>• specific content of the Law changes with history</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contemporary Knowledge:</b> cannot be used to challenge what God has revealed [in Scripture, as unchanging]</p>	<p><b>Contemporary Knowledge:</b> Helps us to understand God's Continuing Creation</p>
<p><b>Response:</b> Need to Repent when we deviate from God's unchanging standards (beware "cheap grace") Homosexuals must change and/or Refrain from Homosexual Behavior</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Unchanging standards can become Idols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• serve to perpetuate Sin (Injustice, Pain)</li> <li>• G/L people do not need to change to receive God's grace</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pastoral Strategy:</b> "Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin" Goal: Have homosexuals move from realization of sin to a deeper understanding of the Gospel</p>	<p><b>Pastoral Strategy:</b> Welcome All (no ranking/judging sin) From acceptance of Grace to More Just, Loving Relationships</p>
<p><b>Orders of Creation:</b> God-given, Unchanging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• express God's purposes, Serve as Bulwark against Sin</li> <li>• exclusively Heterosexual, Procreative</li> </ul>	<p><b>Orders of History:</b> Changing, Under the Reality of Sin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cannot absolutize [human] structures</li> </ul>
<p><b>Emphasis.</b> God's Mercy and Forgiveness [for Individuals]; individual repentance</p>	<p><b>Emphasis:</b> God's New Creation in Christ [Community of Christ], God Making All things New</p>
<p><b>Biblical Texts:</b> Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Gen. 19; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim. 1:10</p>	<p><b>Biblical Texts:</b> Lazarus (John 11); Jesus and the Man Born Blind (John 9); Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10); The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37); Neither Greek nor Jew (Gal. 3:28); Reconciled in One Body (Eph. 2:11-22); Singing in Exile (Psalm 137)</p>

# Fall/Redemption and Creation-Centered Spiritualities

## Fall/Redemption

Key spokespersons: Augustine, Thomas à Kempis, Bossuet, Cotton Mather, Tanquerri

Faith = “thinking with assent” (Augustine)

Patriarchal

Ascetic

Mortification of body

Control of passions

Passion is a curse

God as Father

Suffering is the wages of sin

Holiness is the quest for perfection

Return to past to a state of perfection and innocence

Keep soul clean

Begins with sin

Emphasizes original sin

Introspective in its psychology

Miracle is an outside intervention contravening the law of nature

Ecological

Sciences of nature are unimportant

Dualistic (either/or)

Suspicious of body and violent in its body/soul imagery; “soul makes war with the body” (Augustine)

## Creation-Centered

Key spokespersons: Yahwist author, wisdom writers, prophets, Jesus, Paul, Irenaeus, Benedict, Hildegard, Francis, Aquinas, Mechtild, Eckhart, Julian, Cusa, Teilhard, Chenu, feminists, liberation theologians, artists, musicians, poets

Faith = trust

Feminist

Aesthetic

Discipline toward birthing

Ecstasy, Eros, celebration of passion

Passion is a blessing

God as Mother and Child as well as Father

Suffering is birth pangs of the creation

Holiness is cosmic hospitality

Imperfection is integral to all nature

Make soul wet so it grows, expands, and stays green

Begins with *Dabhar*, God’s creative energy

Emphasizes original blessing

Emphasizes extrovert meditation, i.e. art as meditation

Basic miracle is the wonder of existence, isness, creation

Ecological, cosmic

Science, by teaching us about nature, teaches us about the Creator

Dialectical (both/and)

Welcoming of body and gentle in its body/soul imagery; “soul loves the body” (Eckhart)

Humility = “despise yourself” (Tanquerri)	Humility = befriend one’s earthiness (humus)
In control	Letting go – ecstasy, breakthrough
Pessimistic	Hopeful
Climbing Jacob’s ladder	Dancing Sara’s circle
Elitist	For the many
Particular	Universalist
No cosmic Christ	Cosmic Christ
Emphasis on Jesus as Son of God, but not on Jesus as prophet	Emphasis on Jesus as prophet, as artist, parable-teller, and Son of God who calls others to their divinity
Personal salvation	Salvation and healing of the <i>people</i> of God and the cosmos
Build up church	Build up Kingdom/Queendom
Kingdom = Church	Kingdom = Cosmos, creation
Human as sinner	Human as royal person who can choose to create or destroy
Struggle to clean one’s conscience	Struggle to make justice of injustice and to balance the cosmos
Time is toward the past (lost perfection) or future (heaven): unrealized eschatology	Time is now and making the future (heaven) happen now: realized eschatology
Spiritual journey follows three paths of purgation, illumination, union (Plotinus)	Spiritual journey follows four paths of Via Positiva, Via Negativa, Via Creativa, Via Transformativa
Mysticism = mortify the senses	Mysticism = let go of today’s ideologies
Repent!	Transform and be transformed!
Eternal life is after death	Eternal life is now
All pleasure should be moderate (Tanquerri)	Enjoy divine ecstasy in creations’ pleasures
Contemplation is the goal of spirituality	Compassion, justice, and celebration are the goals of spirituality
A spirituality of the powerful	A spirituality of the powerless, the <i>anawim</i>
Emphasizes the cross	Considers the cross as significant for the Via Negativa, but also emphasizes the Resurrection, the coming of the spirit and creation, co-creation

Tends toward christolatry and docetism with an underdeveloped theology of the Creator and the Holy Spirit

Emphasizes obedience

Tends to abstractions

Righteousness

Duty

Guilt and Redemption

Purity from the world

Apolitical, i.e. supportive of the status quo

Soul is in the body to guard it

Nothingness as psychological experience

Humanity is sinful

Faith is in the intellect

Suspicious of the artist

Theistic

Trinitarian in full sense of celebrating a Creator God, a prophetic Son of God, and the Holy Spirit of divine transformation

Emphasizes creativity (obedience to the image of God in one)

Sensual

Justice

Beauty

Thanks and Praise

Hospitality to all of being

Prophetic, i.e. critical of the status quo and its ideologies

Body is in the soul to enlarge it

Nothingness as metaphysical experience

Humanity is divine and capable of demonic and sinful choices

Faith is in the imagination

Welcomes the artist since all are called to be co-creators with God

Panentheistic

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Matthew Fox, "Appendix B," *Original Blessing: A Primer in Creation Spirituality*. Bear & Co. 1983, 316-319.

# Transgender Glossary

## **Transgender**

Umbrella term used to refer to individuals who cross or transcend culturally defined categories of gender. Includes transsexuals, transvestites, crossdressers, transgenderists, bigender persons, drag queens and kings, and female and male impersonators.

## **Transsexual**

Person who desires or has undergone hormone therapy and/or sex reassignment surgery to resolve an extreme conflict between gender identity (basic conviction of being a man, woman, or other gender) and sex assigned at birth (male or female anatomy).

## **Crossdresser (transvestite)**

Person who desires to wear clothing associated with another sex, for varied reasons.

## **Transgenderist**

Person who lives in the gender role associated with another sex without desiring sex reassignment surgery.

## **Bigender person**

Person who identifies as both man and woman.

## **Drag queen/king**

Usually a gay man or lesbian woman who "does drag" and dresses up in, respectively, women's and men's clothes.

## **Female/male impersonator**

A male who impersonates a woman or a female who impersonates a man, usually for entertainment or performance.

## **For consultation and referral:**

Walter Bockting, Drs. L.P.  
Coordinator of Transgender Services  
Program in Human Sexuality, University of  
Minnesota  
1300 South Second Street, Suite 180, Minneapolis,  
MN 55454  
Phone: 612 625 1500, Fax: 612 626 8311  
E-mail: [bockt001@gold.tc.umn.edu](mailto:bockt001@gold.tc.umn.edu)  
Webpage:  
<http://www.med.umn.edu/fp/phs/phstgsrv.htm>

## **For educational materials (books, videos, questions):**

International Foundation for Gender Education  
P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154-0229  
Phone: 617 899 2212, Fax: 617 899 5730  
E-mail: [ifge@world.std.com](mailto:ifge@world.std.com)

## **To join a professional organization:**

Harry Benjamin International  
Gender Dysphoria Association  
Bean Robinson, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
1300 South Second Street, Suite 180  
Minneapolis, MN 55454  
Phone: 612 625 1500, Fax: 612 626 8311  
E-mail: [robin009@gold.tc.umn.edu](mailto:robin009@gold.tc.umn.edu)  
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n1home/m201/cole001/hbigda/](http://www.tc.umn.edu/n1home/m201/cole001/hbigda/)