Safe Zones Recommended Books on Religion and Spirituality


This collection of essays shows how queer Jews find themselves in a soul-searching quest to integrate their religious beliefs with their sexuality. It is an informative and humorous account of identity, institutions and culture from a queer Jewish perspective.


This book attempts to give a clear and precise explanation of transgender experiences and expressions. As a transgendered Christian, Conover gives a careful critique of the flawed 'scientific' research on this topic and suggests a new way for Christian theology to understand transgendered people.

DiNovo, Cheri. *Qu(e)rying Evangelism: Growing a Community From the Outside In*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2005.

DiNovo raises key issues in working toward full acceptance of LGBTQ people in Christian churches, including how to understand evangelism biblically and in a completely new way, how to function as a queer theologian in a traditional pastorate, how to grow a congregation that honors real differences amongst its members, and how to include transgendersed persons in both the theology and ministry of mainline Christian churches.


This Lambda Literary Award-winning anthology consists of stories and reflections by several Jews who identify as transgendersed or gender-variant. It also includes discussions of Jewish law and community from diverse scholarly, religious and personal perspectives.

This book by a Roman Catholic priest attempts to clarify what the Bible says and does not say about homosexuality using current Biblical scholarship. It dispels commonly mistaken interpretations of anti-gay passages in the Bible and argues that there is no Biblical basis for condemning homosexuality.


As an out lesbian and ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Olive Elaine Hinnant analyzes the texts of ten sermons for insights about socially liberating preaching. She suggests that LGBTQ-identified preaching brings God “out” of the constraints of homophobia and into new and prophetic ways of being Christian.


This book aims to guide readers through the minefield of persecution and condemnation LGBTQ Christians may face in their spiritual journey. *Bulletproof Faith* is filled with useful insight and practices to help deflect attacks while strengthening faith and finding opportunities for spiritual growth.


This pioneering book contains essays by Native Americans, non-Indians, anthropologists and others exploring how gender and sexuality and spirituality are constructed in Native American cultures, focusing on the concept of two-spirit people, which is not necessarily reducible to LGBTQ identities.


Written by Kundtz, a former Catholic priest, and Schlager, director of national programming at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, this book proposes to teach basic skills needed by religious caregivers and ministry students to work effectively with and support LGBTQ Christians, both within and outside their faith communities.

As an open lesbian Muslim, Canadian journalist Irshad Manji offers provocative and deeply personal views about what she sees as troubling aspects of Islam today. Manji focuses on tribal insularity, deep-seated anti-Semitism, anti-feminism, and an uncritical acceptance of the Koran as elements that need reform.


This book is a scholarly attempt to reform religion’s binary and heteronormative understanding of gender. Through an examination of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, church history, and exploration of other religious traditions and cultures, Mollenkott honors the experience of intersexed and transgendered persons while offering an alternative understanding of gender for people of faith.


This is the story of a successful Jewish doctor in private practice being outed months after his marriage to his partner and then excommunicated from his ancestral Sephardic Jewish community. Refusing to abandon his faith, Namdar works to gain acceptance for same-sex marriage in his community.


Combining personal narrative, theology, and church history, Rogers, a theologian and former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, argues for equal rights for the LGBTQ community within the Christian church and in the larger society.


This book analyzes the anti-gay movement lead by Christian churches and why it has been so successful. Ethicist Kathy Rudy argues against the Right’s view on the “gay-agenda” but also offers an alternative vision of gender, sexuality and the family within a Christian context.

This book contains interviews of 12 gay and lesbian individuals who discuss their family background, their early religious and spiritual experiences, and how identifying themselves as gay or lesbian impacted their spiritual life. It covers many religions, from Judaism and Christianity to Taoism and Wicca.


This is a collection of 21 essays by LGBTQ-identified Jews from various walks of life. Containing theological and political analyses as well as personal narratives, it describes how queer Jews are transforming Jewish American culture and developing their own open and accepting religious communities.


This compilation of essays addresses the heated theological and political debates of how accepting American religions should be of LGBT individuals. Drawing from a wide range of religious traditions, scholars explore various kinds of gay religious experience in denominations, sects, and even outside recognized religious institutions.


This book is the most recent work of Vanita exploring same-sex relationships in Indian culture and religion, both in the past and present. It also offers global insight on the debate about gay-marriage in the West.


Weekley, an ordained United Methodist Church minister, decided after 28 years of service to tell his personal story and spiritual journey as now an openly transgendered man. The book describes the challenges he’s faced along the way trying to gain acceptance for people like himself in his own and other Christian communities.

This book chronicles the author’s twenty-five years of experience submitting to counseling, exorcism, electric-shock, and prayer at the hands of his conservative Christian church in order to “cure” him of being gay. Nearly driven to suicide, White exposes the Christian Right’s hate campaign against gay people and finally finds a way to accept himself as an openly gay Christian.