

AFFIRMING NEWS

March 2020

For the Bible Tells Me So

“Does God really condemn loving homosexual relationships? Is the chasm separating Christianity from gays and lesbians too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate? These questions and more are answered in this award-winning documentary, which brilliantly reconciles homosexuality and

Biblical scripture - and reveals that religious anti-gay bias is based almost solely upon a misinterpretation of the Bible.” This 136-minute film, created in 2007 by Daniel Karlake, follows the experiences of five American Christian families as they learn how to reconcile their gay family members with the Bible and the Theology they grew up to believe and follow. Watch for FREE through Kanopy with an Edmonton Public Library Card (or any other participating public libraries).

A lower quality copy can be viewed on YouTube.

Censor Warning: This documentary contains the use of strong language, derogatory terms, and images that may not be suitable for all audiences. Viewers discretion is advised.

Question 1: Is it illegal to be LGBTQ?	Question 2: What does "Genderqueer" mean?	Question 3: Is homosexuality a mental disorder?
Answer 1: In Canada, same-sex sexual activity of any kind was illegal until June 27th, 1969, when the Criminal Law Amendment Act (Bill C-150) came into effect. This changed the law to allow private same-sex activities between consenting adults. There are still 6 countries that impose the death penalty on consensual same-sex acts and 6 others that have the death penalty as a possible punishment.	Answer 2: A Genderqueer person is someone who does not subscribe to conventional gender distinctions but identifies as being both male and female, neither male nor female or as falling completely outside these categories.	Answer 3: No, homosexual behaviour is a normal aspect of human sexuality and has been documented in many different cultures and historical eras. In history, it was thought to be a mental disorder, which led to decades of misinformation, fear and hatred of LGB people. The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from the list of mental disorders in 1973 after no research could support the claim.

Monthly Programs

<p><u>Haven</u></p> <p>Date/Time: Mar 15th, 7-9pm Location: McDougall United Church Description: Haven is an inclusive Christian worship service and community for LGBTQ2S+ individuals & allies.</p>	<p><u>SoulOUTing</u></p> <p>Date/Time: Mar 8th, 7-9pm Location: Robertson-Wesley United Church Description: This is a safe place where LGBTQ2S+ folks and allies can explore the sacred and connect with one another.</p>	<p><u>C.O.R.E</u></p> <p>Date/Time: Mar 22nd, 5-6:30pm Location: Pride Centre of Edmonton Description: The Catholic Outreach of Edmonton invites LGBTQ Catholic people & their allies to monthly gatherings.</p>	<p><u>Generous Space Edmonton Group</u></p> <p>Date/Time: Mar 14th, 4-6pm & Mar 22nd 2-4pm Location: Email for Location Description: This is a group that meets for fun activities, conversation, fellowship, and prayer with a focus on including LGBTQ2S+ Christians and allies.</p>
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<p><u>Weaving Body, Mind, and Spirit</u></p> <p>Date/Time: Mar 11th & 25th, 3:30-5pm Location: The Landing Society Description: Weavings is one of the Landing's regular programs and is a bi-weekly drop-in safe space/community where we can nourish ourselves spiritually and learn about spirituality and sexuality from a queer affirming perspective.</p>	<p><u>The Be Group</u></p> <p>Date/Time: Mar 28nd, 2-4pm Location: Robertson-Wesley United Church Description: A secular activity group for transgender, transsexual, gender-queer, gender-fluid, Two-Spirit, and non-binary & questioning minorities, regardless of age, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status. Whether or not a person is transitioning, transitioned, or exploring life broadly or not.</p>
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