

2011-present

Marriage, Ceremonies, & Rituals

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Annotated by Carlos R. Fernandez, annotations adopted from Amazon.com

Aaron, Darian. *When Love Takes Over: A Celebration Of SGL Couples Of Color*. iUniverse, 2011. Print.

When Love Takes Over: A Celebration of SGL Couples of Color exclusively profile eighteen African- American gay couples who are in committed long term relationships. The couples detail how they met, their journey towards self-acceptance, liberation and ultimately how they fell in love and maintain their relationships, all the while defying the myth that two black men are incapable of loving each other for a lifetime.

Aldredge-Clanton, Jann. *Inclusive Hymns for Liberation, Peace, and Justice*. Eakin, 2011.

This is a collection of hymns by Jann Aldredge-Clanton with composer Larry E. Schultz. These hymns will contribute to an expansive theology and an ethic of equality and justice in human relationships. *Inclusive Hymns for Liberation, Peace, and Justice* will empower people to take prophetic action on gender, race, interfaith cooperation, sexual orientation, ecology, and other social justice issues. These hymns include female and male divine images to support the foundational biblical truth that all people are created equally in the divine image (Genesis 1:27). *Inclusive Hymns for Liberation, Peace, and Justice* will instill belief in the sacredness of all people and all creation. The predominant themes of social justice, peace, liberation, care of creation, partnership in relationships, and unity in diversity come from the prophetic tradition in Scripture. This collection also includes hymns of lament and hymns that celebrate special occasions. Many of the hymns are appropriate for interfaith settings. Most of the hymns are set to widely known tunes, many with fresh arrangements.

Ayers, Tess, and Paul Brown. *The Essential Guide to Gay and Lesbian Weddings*. Experiment, 2012.

Wedding planning is never easy—but for gay and lesbian couples, it presents unique challenges. On top of watching the budget and wrangling with family, one may be wondering: How should one word the invitations? Who can perform the ceremony? What should one say to those who ask, “...why?” This trusty guide—first published when legal same-sex marriage was just a dream—tackles all that and more. Tess Ayers and Paul Brown explain how to get the planning out of the way so you can enjoy your special day! Here are tips on finding the perfect venue, vows, outfits, cake, kit, and caboodle, etc.

Bowen, Brian Anthony. *The Bed Keeper: A Biblical Case for Gay Marriage*. AuthorHouse, 2012.

More than a Biblical case for gay marriage, *The Bed Keeper* takes readers on a journey through space and time within the pages of Scripture, and reveals ancient prophecies long forgotten by the Church that illustrates teachings pertaining to not only the world wide gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, but indeed the Return of Jesus Christ Himself! Along the way, we will discover that Jesus taught LGBT people are naturally born so from our mothers' wombs, that the Apostle Paul ordained single gender Holy Matrimony, and that God demands they be affirmed in Churches all over the globe as equal partakers in the Kingdom of Heaven! *The Bed Keeper* is a message of hope for the LGBT community, complete with Scripture-based prophetic instructions for the Church to become a Bride for her Bridegroom!

Calhoun, Mary. *The Distinctive Wedding Ceremony: Modern Concepts to Inspire Your Day, Your Life*. CreateSpace, 2014.

The Distinctive Wedding Ceremony is an extensive guide for both same-sex and opposite-sex couples wishing to design a unique, seamless, and memorable ceremony. It also serves as a how-to resource for officiants of all faiths, from novice to sage. One of the first books published to support ALL couples – of every lifestyle and belief; it is interfaith in nature and makes creating personalized nuptials effortless. It assures every couple of a genuine and meaningful service. The content features a heartfelt collection of 80+ ceremony choices of both fresh/contemporary writings as well as selections that are more traditional. Rev. Mary Calhoun encourages creativity and personalization by blending favored selections.

Connell, Mark. *Modern Brides & Modern Grooms: A Guide to Planning Straight, Gay, and Other Nontraditional Twenty-first-century Weddings*. Skyhorse, 2014.

This post-DOMA book is for any couple--same or opposite sex--seeking a personalized wedding that dignifies the relationship and the individual self. No "new normal" here--this guide emboldens you to harness your unique, brazen, queer truth; to be creative; and to plan one's wedding *their* way. Every fiancé faces the question: How do I become something new without losing myself? Using his own story--from how he and his husband connected via MTV's *The Real World* to the real world of their marriage--author Mark O'Connell reflects on conflicts that arrive during wedding transitions, as well as various other transitions throughout your lives. As a psychotherapist, O'Connell offers ideas to bridge relational gaps with your partner, family, and friends. As a professional actor, he also offers insight into the ways your wedding is a theatrical production: how this can help one to conceptualize the event, consolidate one's efforts, and increase creative collaboration as a couple. This will serve one not only on the day, but also for the rest of one's time together.

Corvino, John, and Maggie Gallagher. *Debating Same-sex Marriage*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012.

Polls and election results show Americans sharply divided on same-sex marriage and the controversy is unlikely to subside anytime soon. *Debating Same-Sex Marriage* provides an indispensable roadmap to the ongoing debate. Taking a "point/counterpoint" approach,

John Corvino (a philosopher and prominent gay advocate) and Maggie Gallagher (a nationally syndicated columnist and co-founder of the National Organization for Marriage) explore fundamental questions: What is marriage for? Is sexual difference essential to it? Why does the government sanction it? What are the implications of same-sex marriage for children's welfare, for religious freedom, and for our understanding of marriage itself? While the authors disagree on many points, they share the following conviction: Because marriage is a vital public institution, this issue deserves a comprehensive, rigorous, thoughtful debate.

Cram, Jennifer. *55 Loving Ways to Remember: A Definitive Guide to Including Those Who Have Passed in Your Wedding Ceremony and Celebration*. CreateSpace, 2011.

Loved ones who have passed are woven into your lives in countless ways. Including them in your wedding can help you feel close to them on your big day, but how to do so appropriately can be a challenge. For some, a public tribute will feel comfortable. For others, either an acknowledgement in their wedding program or a private symbolic remembrance will be the way to go. This book is packed with ideas and practical suggestions for tributes, for ways to include a memorial component in rituals such as the Unity Candle, Sand or Rose Ceremonies, for Balloon, Butterfly, and Dove releases, and for more private symbolic remembrances that can be captured in your wedding photographs.

---. *Fantastic Wedding Finales: A Definitive Guide to Releases, Tosses, Jumping the Broom, and Other Creative Grand Finales for Your Wedding or Commitment Ceremony*. CreateSpace, 2014.

This book will answer every question one might have about their wedding or commitment ceremony recessional, will get one's imagination fired up with numerous practical ideas about how to deviate from tradition in ways that will entrance one's guests and add a unique twist to one's ceremony finale. Drawing on her extensive experience of creating and performing unique wedding ceremonies for more than 500 couples, the author guides the reader through a wide range of ways to end and exit your wedding reception on a high note. She offers numerous practical tips and suggestions including: Involving the guests in creative ways that they will love; everything one needs to know about releases (balloons, doves, etc.); recessional music; creative and unusual tosses, bells, fireworks, jumping the broom ... and so much more.

---. *Gay Groom's Guide to Writing Your Vows*. CreateSpace, 2013.

Carefully created vows should not only fulfil legal requirements, they should touch everyone's hearts. They may make one cry. They may make the guests cry. However, they should not make anyone squirm, roll their eyes, or laugh with embarrassment. By guiding one step-by-step through the process, the book will show one how easy it can be to write vows that speak one's hearts and one's loving intentions towards each other in simple and honest words. It will also help one make the practical decisions needed when

there are two grooms, and to navigate the complexities of creating vows that comply with the legal requirements whatever they are.

Cram, Jennifer. *Unity Candle and Sand Ceremony: A Definitive Guide to the Creative Use of Candle and Sand Rituals in Wedding and Commitment Ceremonies*. CreateSpace, 2011.

This easy-to-read book is a unique source of both inspiration and practical advice to help couples, celebrants, and clergy to create a Unity Candle or Sand Ceremony that meets their individual needs and be confident that not only will the ritual flow smoothly on the day but the photographs will be wonderful. It takes a fresh look at both rituals, challenges readers to consider what the ritual symbolizes for them personal, presents creative alternatives, and guides the reader through the process of developing a unique and personal version of each ceremony, and choosing or creating the items one will need to carry out the ritual.

---. *Perfect Wedding Processionals: A Definitive Guide to Making a Grand Entrance for Your Wedding or Commitment Ceremony*. CreateSpace, 2013.

A great resource for brides, grooms, wedding planners, and officiants, this book will answer every question you might have about your wedding or commitment ceremony processional. Not sure who goes first, how to hold your bouquet, what music to choose, or why everyone is telling you that you must do it a certain way? The author, an experienced wedding celebrant, answers all of these questions and gives you tips about how to ensure the processional flows smoothly and that your photographer can capture great images, together with the tools to allow you to feel confident on the day. She also gives one ideas about on how to deviate from tradition in ways that will entrance your guests and add a unique twist to making your grand entrance.

---. *The Lesbian Bride's Guide to Writing Your Vows*. CreateSpace, 2013.

Carefully created vows should not only fulfil legal requirements, they should touch everyone's hearts. They may make one cry. They may make the guests cry. However, they should not make anyone squirm, roll their eyes, or laugh with embarrassment. By guiding one step-by-step through the process, the book will show one how easy it can be to write vows that speak one's hearts and one's loving intentions towards each other in simple and honest words. It will also help one make the practical decisions needed when there are two brides, and to navigate the complexities of creating vows that comply with the legal requirements whatever they are.

Duck, Ruth C. *Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21st Century*. Westminster John Knox, 2013.

This new book on worship by renowned hymn writer and professor Ruth C. Duck provides theological foundations for worship and explores the variety of ways Christians have adapted worship to various cultures to help them live faithfully and to communicate the Gospel to others. The author celebrates the many languages and cultural settings in

which the Gospel has been, and is, preached, sung, and prayed. The goal of this volume is to support good pastoral and congregational reflection on what worship is and does. Consequently, Duck discusses many different forms of worship from several cultures (African-American, Asian, Euro-American) and offers advice on how to read a congregation and define its culture in order to plan culturally appropriate worship. Although the book does not offer prescriptive formulas or advise a single pattern of worship, it includes many practical suggestions for preparing and leading worship, including diverse ministries of music, movement, and visual arts that are becoming more popular today. From worship's theological underpinnings, the book turns to worship leadership, forms of prayer, preaching, the sacraments, ordination, and various other liturgies. Because of its emphasis on vital and Spirit-led worship, this comprehensive book on Christian worship will be used in years to come not only as a core textbook for seminarians and ministry students from a variety of cultures and traditions, but also as a resource for local church pastors and laity who are dedicated to the enlivening of Christian worship.

Francois, Levelt. *Minorities' Rights: Same Sex Marriage: A Legal, Political, and Religious Analysis*. Bird Eye's, 2013.

Based on an extensive body of research in the fields of law, religion, biology and sociology, this book is a hands-on guide people can use to educate themselves and others on the simmering issues of gay rights and same-sex marriage. In plain, easy-to-follow language, Levelt explains exactly why gays and lesbians are entitled to equal treatment under the law, why they should have equal marriage rights to heterosexuals, and why society at large should respect them and their marriages. Moreover, Levelt includes scores of real-world examples that ease the understanding process of the issues. Certainly, a number of writers have attempted to speak on gay rights and same-sex marriage.

Gill, Emily R. *An Argument for Same-sex Marriage: Religious Freedom, Sexual Freedom, and Public Expressions of Civic Equality*. Georgetown UP, 2012.

In *An Argument for Same-Sex Marriage*, political scientist Emily Gill draws an extended comparison between religious belief and sexuality, both central components of one's personal identity. Using the religion clause of the First Amendment as a foundation, Gill contends that, just as US law and policy ensure that citizens may express religious beliefs as they see fit, it should also ensure that citizens may marry as they see fit. Civil marriage, according to Gill, is a public institution, and the exclusion of some couples from a state institution is a public expression of civic inequality. *An Argument for Same-Sex Marriage* is a passionate and timely treatment of the various arguments for and against same-sex marriage and how those arguments reflect our collective sense of morality and civic equality. It will appeal to readers who have an interest in gay and lesbian studies, political theory, constitutional law, and the role of religion in the contemporary United States.

Gough-Buijs, Richard, and Hannah Brackenbury. *Ooh Yes I Do!: The Ultimate Gay & Lesbian Wedding Planner*. CreateSpace, 2013.

This is the ultimate gay and lesbian wedding planner and it includes everything one needs to plan a civil union or wedding. Read about estimating the costs, planning your ceremony, discussing the surnames, choosing a suitable venue, picking a theme, and personalizing the day. The book also includes information about civil unions and same-sex marriages anywhere in the world and it features stunning photography by Hannah Brackenbury. You may want to use one or more ideas, or all of them. *Ooh Yes I Do!* would make a great gift for same-sex couples who are planning to enter into a civil union or getting married.

Hafeezah, General. *Before You Say, "I DO" Civil Union Set: His and Hers*. CreateSpace, 2011.

After four futile attempts at wedded bliss, battle scarred vet, “General” Hafeezah, describes in a shockingly honest way, how she wound up married to an abuser, drug addict, prisoner, and finally a man on the “Down low”. Realizing her series of errors, she developed this comprehensive must-have tool designed to prevent fraud and deception and determine long-term compatibility for a successful marriage. *Before You Say, "I Do" Civil Union Set* includes questions specifically designed for the LGBT Couple and removes the rose colored glasses allowing a 20/20 visual look into the true personality of the person you are about to dedicate your life to. When used in advance of the marriage, the vital information obtained will allow you to determine in what areas you agree or differ: opening dialogue that will assist you in making a sound decision before moving forward to your wedding day. You will enjoy as you answer the questions in your workbook then trade with your partner for an explosive reality check on their thoughts and ideas regarding various subjects that will affect every aspect of your married life. The advice, tips, and exercises in the book will prove to be an invaluable instrument to full discovery. This book should be required reading for every dating, courting or engaged LGBT couple.

Hamm, Kathryn, and Thea Dodds. *The New Art of Capturing Love: The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Wedding Photography*. Amphoto, 2014.

The first guide to posing and sensitively capturing same-sex couples on their big day, *The New Art of Capturing Love* equips semi-pro and professional wedding photographers to enter the exciting new LGBT wedding photography market. These are exciting times for marriage equality—but capturing memorable LGBTQ portraits requires a novel approach to posing, which until now has been nearly exclusively oriented toward pairing a taller man in black with a smaller woman in white. What works for Jack and Jill won’t necessarily work for Jack and Michael, let alone Jill and Louise. *The New Art of Capturing Love* shatters the “old standards” of wedding and engagement photography by showing how inappropriate they can be for today’s diverse couples, then shares easy-to-implement poses and techniques that can be applied to any couple (and wedding party), no matter their orientations, to create lasting memories.

Heaphy, Brian, and Carol Smart. *Same Sex Marriages: New Generations, New Relationships*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Over a couple of generations, new possibilities have opened up for how we organize our relationships. This is especially true of same sex relationships where there is an increasing acceptance of civil unions and same-sex marriages. Many young same-sex couples and partners are now living more ordinary lives than ever thought possible before, and marriage can be an important part of this. Based on extensive couple and individual interviews with young partners who have legally formalized their relationships, this fascinating new book argues that same sex marriages in everyday life need to be understood in terms of interlinked developments in lesbian and gay worlds, heterosexual relationships and in personal life. The book sheds light on the generational and biographical factors that influence same sex relationships and discusses the implications for how we understand changing heterosexual relationships and marriages. This topical book will provide compelling reading for all those interested in sexuality, gender, the family, and personal life.

Hertz, Frederick, and Emily Doskow. *Making It Legal: A Guide to Same-sex Marriage, Domestic Partnerships & Civil Unions*. 2nd ed. Nolo, 2011.

The ultimate guide to the past, present, and future of same-sex relationship laws in the U.S. Same-sex relationships are treated differently under each state's laws, and more than a quarter of the U.S. population lives in a state with some form of legal recognition for same-sex couples. More than 100,000 same-sex couples have married. *Making It Legal* is the only book that offers a comprehensive review of all the issues that influence the decision to marry and breaks down the complex and ever-changing rules of same-sex relationship laws. Nationally recognized same-sex relationship law expert Attorney Frederick Hertz and Attorney Emily Doskow have written the ultimate guide to the ultimate decision -- whether to enter into a marriage or other legal relationship with your same-sex partner. Since the first edition was published, numerous changes have taken place across the country. Some states have legalized same-sex marriage, and others have passed laws stating that they will acknowledge same-sex marriages from other states. This edition is updated to account for these changes in state laws and projects additional changes likely to happen in the future.

Jordan, Mark D. *Blessing Same-sex Unions: The Perils of Queer Romance and the Confusions of Christian Marriage*. U of Chicago, 2013.

At most church weddings, the person presiding over the ritual is not a priest or a pastor, but the wedding planner, followed by the photographer, the florist, and the caterer. In this day and age, more wedding theology is supplied by *Modern Bride* magazine or reality television than by any of the Christian treatises on holy matrimony. Indeed, church weddings have strayed long and far from distinctly Christian aspirations. The costumes and gestures might still be right, but the intentions are hardly religious. Why then, asks noted gay commentator Mark D. Jordan, are so many churches vehemently opposed to blessing same-sex unions? In this incisive work, Jordan shows how carefully selected

ideals of Christian marriage have come to dominate recent debates over same-sex unions. Opponents of gay marriage, he reveals, too often confuse simplified ideals of matrimony with historical facts. They suppose, for instance, that there has been a stable Christian tradition of marriage across millennia, when in reality Christians have quarreled among themselves for centuries about even the most basic elements of marital theology, authorizing experiments like polygamy and divorce. Jordan also argues that no matter what the courts do, Christian churches will have to decide for themselves whether to bless same-sex unions. No civil compromise can settle the religious questions surrounding gay marriage. And queer Christians, he contends, will have to discover for themselves what they *really* want out of marriage. If they are not just after legal recognition as a couple or a place at the social table, do they really seek the blessing of God? Or just the garish melodrama of a white wedding? Posing trenchant questions such as these, *Blessing Same-Sex Unions* will be a must-read for both sides of the debate over gay marriage in America today.

Kimport, Katrina. *Queering Marriage Challenging Family Formation in the United States*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers UP, 2014.

Over four thousand gay and lesbian couples married in the city of San Francisco in 2004. The first large-scale occurrence of legal same-sex marriage, these unions galvanized a movement and reignited the debate about whether same-sex marriage, as some hope, challenges heterosexual privilege or, as others fear, preserves that privilege by assimilating queer couples. In *Queering Marriage*, Katrina Kimport uses in-depth interviews with participants in the San Francisco weddings to argue that same-sex marriage cannot be understood as simply entrenching or contesting heterosexual privilege. Instead, she contends, these new legally sanctioned relationships can both reinforce as well as disrupt the association of marriage and heterosexuality. During her deeply personal conversations with same-sex spouses, Kimport learned that the majority of respondents did characterize their marriages as an opportunity to contest heterosexual privilege. Yet, in a seeming contradiction, nearly as many also cited their desire for access to the normative benefits of matrimony, including social recognition and legal rights, Kimport's research revealed that the pattern of ascribing meaning to marriage varied by parenthood status and, in turn, by gender. Lesbian parents were more likely to embrace normative meanings for their unions; those who are not parents were more likely to define their relationships as attempts to contest dominant understandings of marriage. By posing the question—can queers “queer” marriage?—Kimport provides a nuanced, accessible, and theoretically grounded framework for understanding the powerful effect of heterosexual expectations on both sexual and social categories.

Kindle, Steven F. *Marriage Equality: Why Same-sex Marriage Is Good for the Church and the Nation*. Charleston, S.C.?: CreateSpace, 2013.

Marriage Equality is written from the perspective of a straight Christian pastor who moved from opposition to the LGBT movement to fully embracing their cause. By thorough analysis of the relevant Old and New Testament passages, outlining the latest scientific and psychological findings, a full picture emerges of a common humanity in

pursuit of common needs. Many myths and lies will be debunked along the way, and an analysis of the Supreme Court decisions on DOMA and California's Proposition 8 is included. There are suggested discussion questions after each chapter for groups. This book introduces the gay community to those who want to know more about their lives, their struggles, and their pursuit of full equality.

Michaels, Elena. *How to Write Your Own Wedding Vows: An Easy, Simple Formula to Create a Personalized, Memorable Ceremony*. CreateSpace, 2013.

This book gives one the formula to create their own wedding ceremony. Every couple hopes their wedding will be special, reflecting the uniqueness of their relationship. Use this easy formula explaining and describing the various sections of the ceremony, see the examples given, and adapt one's ceremony to reflect one's relationship. Written by a non-denominational minister who has officiated at many weddings including those in unusual locales and out-of-the ordinary situations, this book provides the step-by step guide for one to create the wedding ceremony of their dreams. Whether it is one's first marriage or a subsequent marriage, traditional or unconventional, alternative, pagan, same-sex, civil union or a ceremony to renew one's vows, this book takes one through the easy steps. Simply follow the format to make one's ceremony one they will remember and cherish for years to come.

Mitchell, Jason. *Getting Groomed the Ultimate Wedding Planner for Gay Grooms*. Chronicle, 2013.

Finally, a fun wedding organizer for gay grooms! Packed in a sleek two-ring binder that will slip easily into a messenger bag or briefcase, this planner covers every aspect of the event so the big day goes off without a hitch. Focusing on the details of the celebration and steering away from the politics of gay marriage, *Getting Groomed* offers a refreshing approach to readers planning a wedding or commitment ceremony. Couples will learn how to set a budget, organize the guest list, design invitations, dress, and style for the big day, and much more. With fill-in worksheets, pockets for stashing important forms and contracts, a master timeline, and plenty of wit and charm, this elegant planner is the resource—and perfect gift—for stylish grooms-to-be.

Outcome (Methodist Church). *Bold I Approach: A Worship Anthology for an Inclusive Church*. Lulu.com, 2013.

The worship material here is intended for private and public use, with contributions from past Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Methodist Church. Compiled by Outcome as part of our ongoing pilgrimage marking 20 Years since the 1993 resolutions on human sexuality were passed and our pilgrimage began.

Perkins Jr., James. *Same Sex Marriage Rights Issue: The Issue Is Not the Problem*. CreateSpace, 2013.

Same Sex Marriage Rights Issue: The Issue Is Not The Problem shows how all singles, not just the LGBT community, are discriminated against. The same sex marriage rights issue reaches into the foundation of the Constitution and it reaches into the heart of the spiritual canons of the three major religion in America to expose government discrimination against its own citizens. Perkins says, “I am confident that regardless of where you stand on the same sex marriage rights issue, whether you agree or disagree, I think you will find my conclusion non-traditional, non-threatening, and thought provoking. Furthermore, I am convinced that if you give my conclusion unbiased consideration, we will agree.” Perkins stands alone for no-one has spoken about the same sex marriage rights issue this way before. And as this profile was being written, one questions whether anyone will be bold enough to ignite a national conversation about what Perkins calls, “the real problem.” *The Same Sex Marriage Rights Issue: The Issue Is Not the Problem* gently challenges the faith-based community, gay-rights community, and government to add another perspective to the dialog with the hope that this information nugget bridges the communications gulf between the parties.

Robinson, V. Gene. *God Believes in Love: Straight Talk about Gay Marriage*. New York: Knopf, 2012.

From the IX Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire in the Episcopal Church, the first openly gay person elected to the episcopate and the world’s leading religious spokesperson for gay rights and gay marriage—a groundbreaking book that persuasively makes the case for same-sex marriage using a commonsense, reasoned, religious argument. Robinson holds the religious text of the Bible to be holy and sacred and the ensuing two millennia of church history to be relevant to the discussion. He is equally familiar with the secular and political debate about gay marriage going on in America and is someone for whom same-sex marriage is a personal issue. Robinson has a knack for taking complex and controversial issues and addressing them in plain direct language, without using polemics or ideology, putting forth his argument for gay marriage, and bringing together sacred and secular points of view.

Roney, Carley. *The Knot Guide to Wedding Vows and Traditions Readings, Rituals, Music, Dances, and Toasts*. Revised ed. New York: Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 2013.

The ceremony is the cornerstone of the wedding celebration. There are countless ways to make the wedding ceremony one’s own. *The Knot Guide to Wedding Vows and Traditions* is an important resource for brides and grooms. Throughout, you’ll also find a rich and inspiring selection of both classic and original ideas for: religious or secular vows and readings; traditions and symbolic rituals; speeches and toasts; and music for the processional, recessional, and the special dances at the reception.

Smith, Bernadette Coveney, and Katje Hempel. *The Lesbian Couple's Guide to Planning a Wedding: Everything You Need to Know about Planning Your Dream Wedding*. South Portland, Maine: Sellers, 2013.

With same-sex marriage becoming legal in more states, many lesbian couples are making the biggest decision of their lives to get married! In order to ensure the ceremony and reception go off without a hitch, who should they turn to? As the nation's leading same-sex wedding expert, Bernadette Coveney Smith provides all the essential information that lesbians need in order to have the wedding of their dreams. Coveney Smith gives lesbian couples advice on everything from setting priorities and organizing their budget to involving parents and family (or not!) in the planning process. In this comprehensive 12-month wedding-countdown format, Coveney Smith shows how to plan for a wide range of weddings for all budgets and styles from casual to formal. With more than 125 beautiful color photographs to provide added inspiration, *The Lesbian Couple's Guide to Wedding Planning* is the go-to resource for engaged lesbian couples everywhere!

Smith, Bernadette Coveney. *The Business of Gay Weddings: A Guide for Wedding Professionals*. Goodnow Flow, 2014.

Same-sex weddings present unique challenges (and joys) to those in the wedding industry. Laws are beginning to change across the country as well as around the world. One must be prepared to reach this market. *The Business of Gay Weddings* is an intensive, practical guide designed to help one understand the LGBT wedding market by sharing the best practices from hundreds of gay and lesbian weddings. The book covers topics such as laws and policies affecting same-sex couples, LGBT wedding data, trends, traditions, and more.

Thompsett, Fredrica Harris, and Gene Robinson. *Encouraging Conversation: Resources for Talking about Same-sex Blessings*. Morehouse, 2013.

With the authorization of "I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing", more Episcopal parishes will be preparing to be in conversation about same-sex blessings and issues of sexuality. This volume is designed to tell the stories of parishes and dioceses where the conversation has been held: what worked, what didn't work, how the conversation shaped and was shaped by those involved. Harris Thompsett pulls in a range of voices and resources, designed to aid those congregations now approaching this exciting opportunity.

Toussaint, David, and Melanie Wesslock. *The Gay Couple's Guide to Wedding Planning: Everything Gay Men Need to Know to Create a Fun, Romantic, and Memorable Ceremony*. Sellers, 2012.

This book reveals everything one needs to know about planning the perfect wedding, from telling the folks to budgeting to writing vows that express what is in one's heart. *The Gay Couple's Guide to Wedding Planning* is the perfect book for male couples who want to understand how to take the stress out of every stage of putting together a memorable ceremony and reception. Toussaint reveals how to deal with relatives who may not be accepting of your lifestyle, how to search for gay-friendly vendors, and what grooms need to know about grooming. Featuring over 100 color photos, this user-friendly, 12-month guide walks one through all the essentials. There is practical advice

on booking a site, hiring a band or DJ (or a drag queen), registering for flowers, and deciding just how gay you want your honeymoon to be. Toussaint includes advice for every budget with money-saving cheap tricks that will help one celebrate without breaking the bank. Inspiring true stories of gay couples who found wedded bliss are included throughout. *The Gay Couple's Guide to Wedding Planning* is an indispensable resource for creating the ceremony of one's dreams!

Young, Pamela Dickey. *Religion, Sex and Politics: Christian Churches and Same-Sex Marriage in Canada*. Fernwood, 2013. Print.

A riveting discussion on the implications of same-sex marriage, this book analyzes the same-sex marriage debate in Canada by examining the intersections between religion, sexuality, and public policy. The various arguments made by religious groups, both for and against same-sex marriage, are discussed, illustrating the range of perspectives on sexuality espoused by Christian groups and the numerous ways in which they influence the outcomes of legislation and court decisions.