

# CONVERSATION ON A WAY FORWARD RESOURCES

## BOOKS

- Browson, James V. [Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships](#)
- Carter, Ken. [Embracing the Wideness; The Shared Convictions of The United Methodist Church](#)
- Cramer, Philip F. and Harbison, William L. [The Fight for Marriage – Church Conflicts and Courtroom Contests](#)
- DeYoung, Kevin. [What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?](#)
- Field, David N. [Bid Our Jarring Conflicts Cease; A Wesleyan Theology and Praxis of Church Unity](#)
- Hamilton, Adam. [Making Sense of the Bible \(esp. chapter on Homosexuality & the Bible\)](#)
- Hansen, Adolf. [Is It Time? Helping Lay and Clergy Discuss Homosexuality One Question at a Time](#)
- Huertas, Juan, Rawle, Matt, and Simpson, Katie McKay. [The Marks of Hope](#)
- Job, Rueben P and Alexander, Neil M., eds. [Finding Our Way-Love and Law in The United Methodist Church](#)
- Martin, Colby. [UNClobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality](#)
- Milford, Brian K., ed. [Holy Contradictions; What's Next for the People Called Methodists](#)
- Oliveto, Karen P. [Our Strangely Warmed Hearts](#)
- Pavlovitz, John. [A Bigger Table](#)
- Renfro, Rob and Fenton, Walter. [Are We Really Better Together; An Evangelical Perspective on the Division in The UMC](#)
- Schmidt, Thomas. [Straight & Narrow? Compassion & Clarity in the Homosexuality Debate](#)
- The Arbinger Institute. [The Anatomy of Peace; Resolving the Heart of Conflict](#)
- VanderWal-Gritter, Wendy. [Generous Spaciousness: Responding to Gay Christians in the Church](#)

## WEBSITES

### **Severna Park UMC (Way Forward Section)**

[severnaparkumc.org/a-way-forward](http://severnaparkumc.org/a-way-forward)

### **The Wesleyan Covenant Association (Traditionalist)**

*The Wesleyan Covenant Association connects Spirit-filled, orthodox churches of Wesleyan theology and their members. We believe in: 1) Committing to the authority of Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. 2) Creating a unified response to the Bishops' Commission's recommendation while maintaining orthodox Methodist beliefs. 3) Developing a plan for a positive and faithful future.*

[wesleyancovenant.org/](http://wesleyancovenant.org/)

### **Uniting Methodists (Centrist)**

*Uniting Methodists is a movement of Christ-centered, hope-filled United Methodists, uniting in Christ to make disciples for the transformation of the world. We believe that it is possible to be faithful United Methodist Christians and to disagree on how we interpret scripture regarding same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ persons.*

[unitingmethodists.com/](http://unitingmethodists.com/)

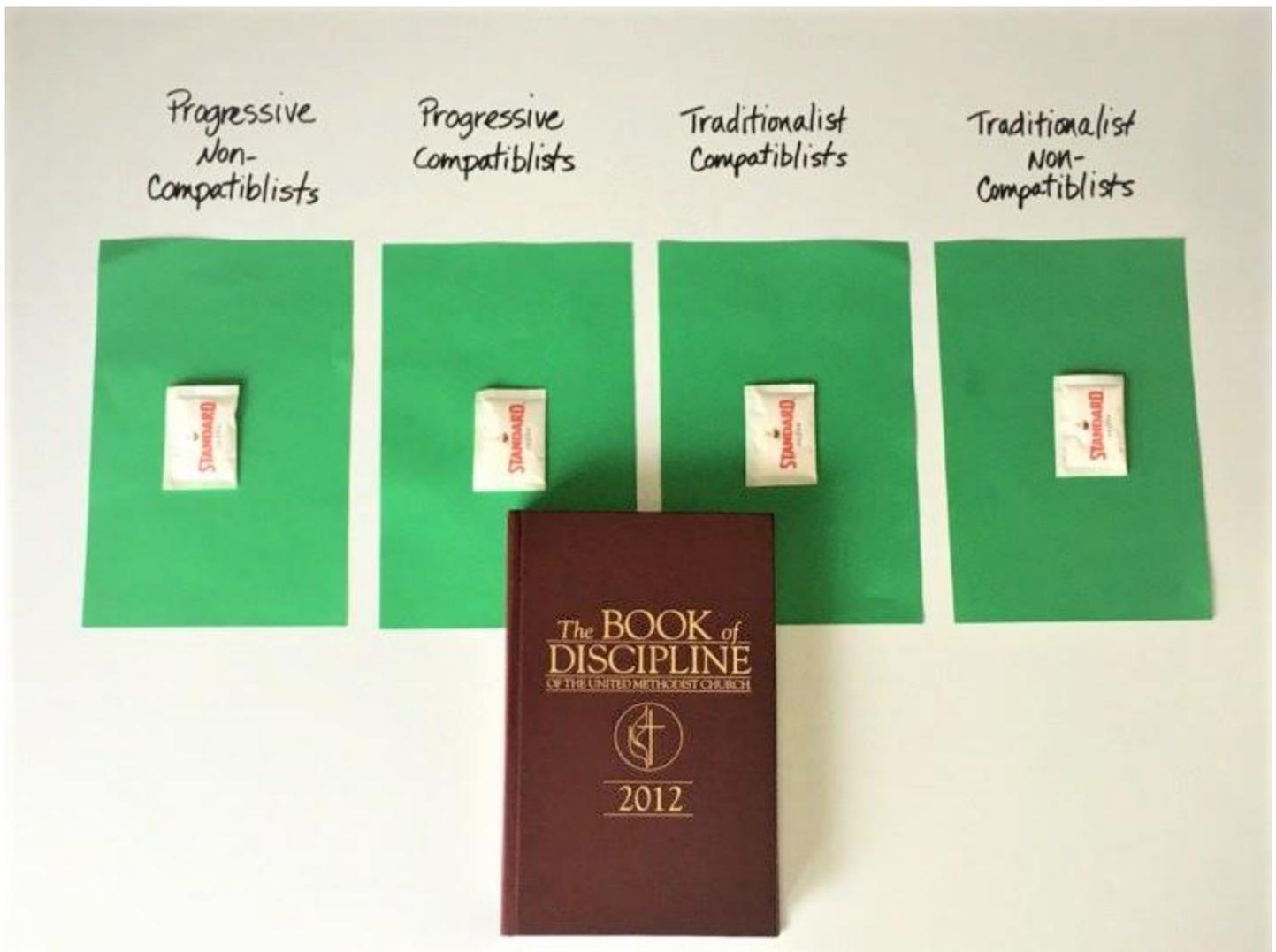
### **Reconciling Ministry Network (Progressive)**

*Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) works for justice for people of all sexual orientations and genders and especially within The United Methodist Church, which has yet to allow the full inclusion of LGBTQ individual. by empowering, developing, and raising up lay, clergy, and congregation leaders to resist evil, injustice, and oppression.*

[rmnetwork.org/](http://rmnetwork.org/)

### **Baltimore-Washington Conference**

[www.bwcmc.org/resources/umc-commission-on-a-way-forward/](http://www.bwcmc.org/resources/umc-commission-on-a-way-forward/)



## Defining Some Terms

What do these terms mean in relation to how people see the debate on LGBTQ inclusion/morality based on their personal understanding of Scripture and how they feel the language in the Book of Discipline should be changed (language added, removed or remain the same) and enforced?

**Traditionalists** would affirm the current language in the BOD that homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching” (sinful) and point to 7 main passages of Scripture to support this along with the tradition of the church. They tend to see homosexuality as a lifestyle choice. They do not believe that same-sex marriage or the ordination of LGBTQ individuals is consistent with our Wesleyan theology and therefore should continue to be disallowed within the church.

**Progressives** see the language in the BOD as discriminatory and prefer that it be removed believing that LGBTQ individuals are of equal sacred worth with heterosexual persons. They also read Scripture as the inspired Word of God but interpret these verses as being more reflective of the time they were written and/or the theology of the writers than God’s timeless revealed will. They see homosexuality as a given identity more than a choice. On the whole they are in favor of allowing Annual Conferences to ordain LGBTQ individuals and to allow clergy to perform same-sex weddings.

**Compatibilists** are people who are willing to “agree to disagree” on this issue, that is stay in communion with/love one another for the shared mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Non-Compatibilists** see this as a non-negotiable issue that may require division or leaving the UMC altogether as a matter of conscience, fidelity to Scripture, integrity and/or justice.