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# Love, Hope, and Listening: An Oral History of LGBTQ Topics and Responses at Hope College

Katherine Sauer

Mentor: Priscilla Atkins

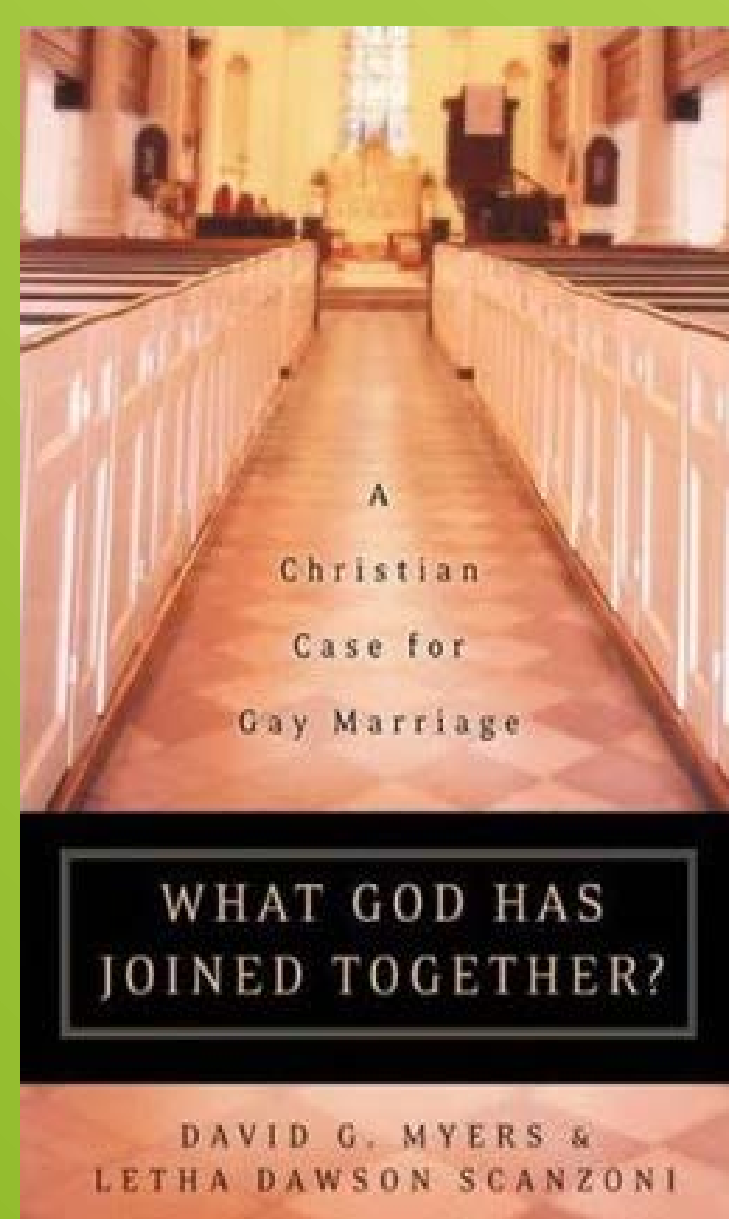
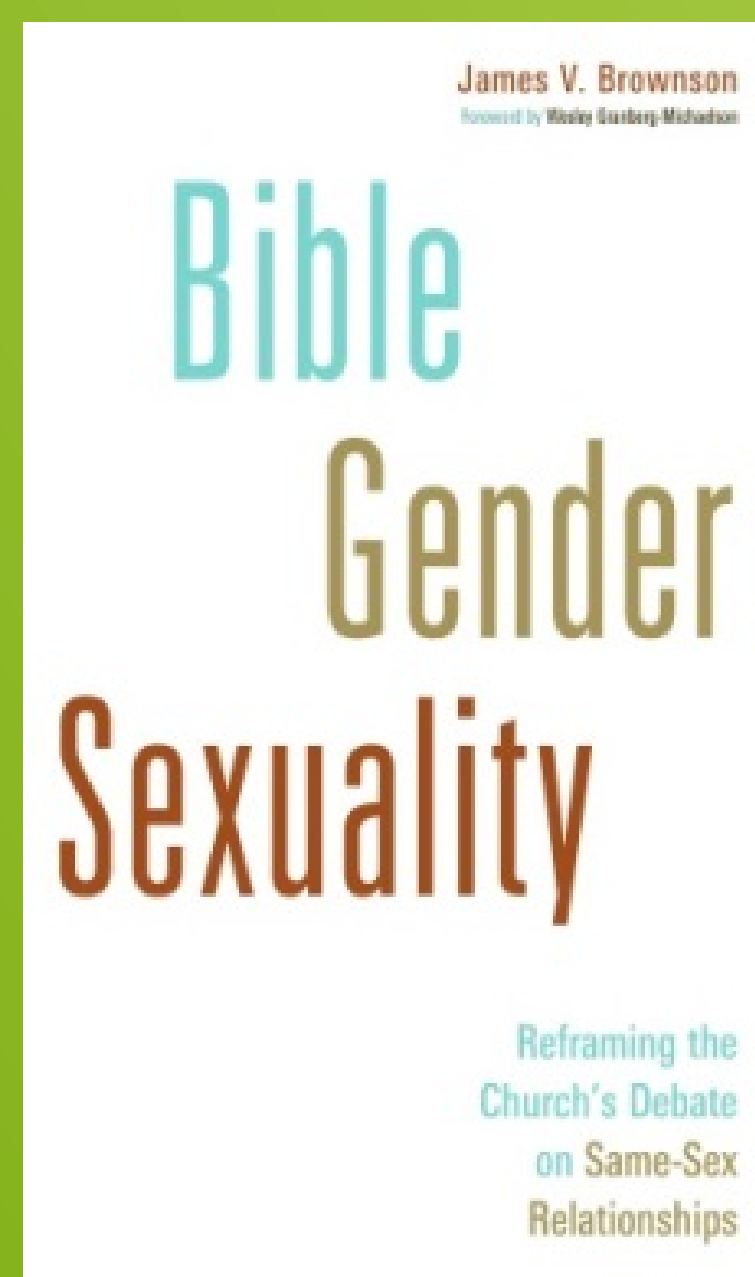
*Women's and Gender Studies, Hope College*

## Abstract

The intent of this project is to provide the Hope College community with an informative compilation of documents and interview testimonies about LGBTQ topics on campus over the years. The local collection of archived reports, books by local scholars, student projects (i.e. essays and a film), and newspaper articles covering LGBTQ topics would benefit from a current addition. There is not a readily available resource that references all of these genres of information across a breadth of time, as my project intends to do. Such an addition would have a two-fold purpose: first, to refresh the campus's collective memory of Hope College's LGBTQ history and, secondly, to record current perspectives on LGBTQ people and realities at Hope.

## Summary of Summer Research

I began this multi-part project with a foundation of academic research. During May 2013, I worked with my current mentor Priscilla Atkins to do extensive archival research. I viewed and read a variety of sources: documentaries and other informational films, recordings of speakers at Hope years ago, student-produced written and film projects, library books, newspaper articles, reports, meeting minutes, policies, and statements.



## Themes from Summer Research

We are in the "Muddled Middle" concerning...

1. Reputation versus Reality
2. Tensions Between Statements & Policies
3. Spectrum of Diverse Christian Perspectives
4. Social Context for LGBTQ Students

## Quotes

The interviews took place during a three-week period in March 2014 and total about eighteen hours of conversation. Below are some quotes from the interviews that I conducted this semester. See handout for more excerpts.



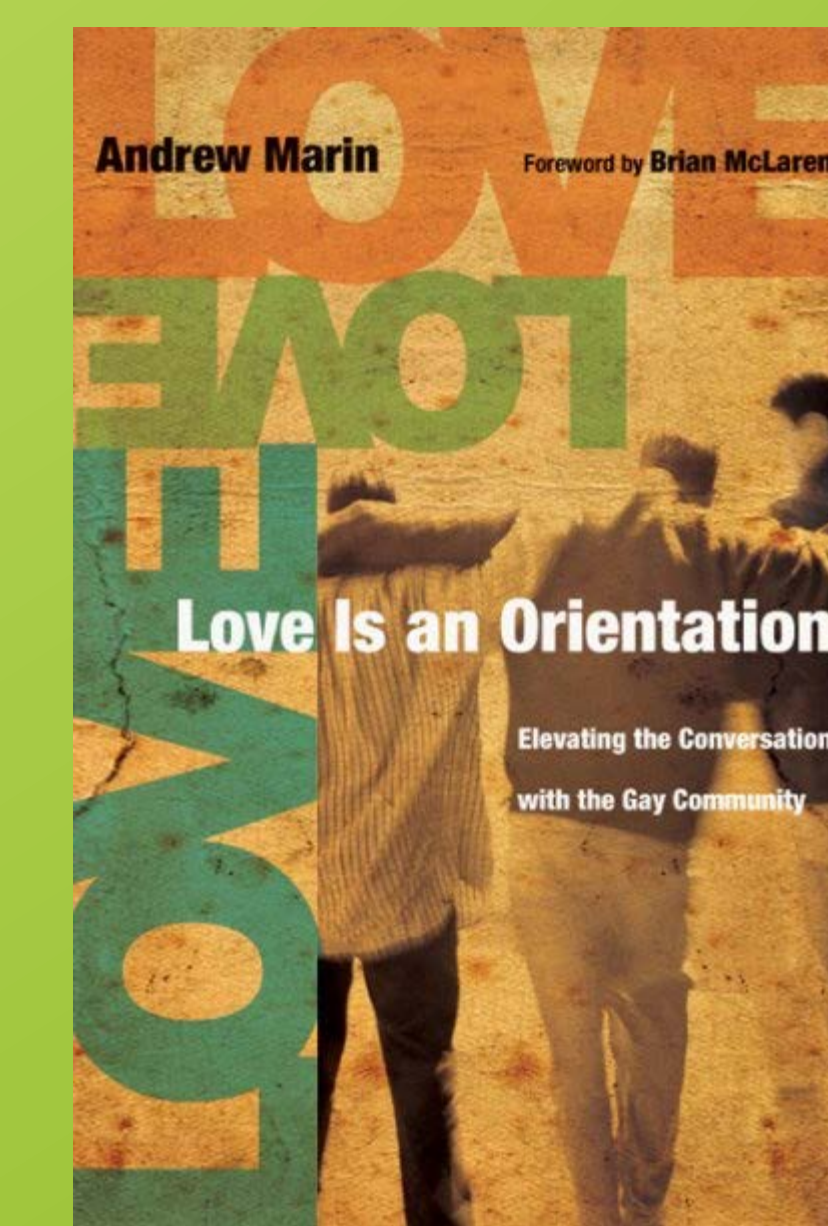
## Methodology of Interview Segment

1. Design interview questions
2. Human Subject Review Board (HSRB) Protocol
  - Decision tree for exempt/non-exempt status
  - CITI course completion
  - Design consent form
  - Project registration
3. Identify interview subjects
4. Conduct interviews (video, audio, oral)

## Recommendations for Programming and Study at Hope

This project is neither the beginning nor the end of efforts to address topics, issues, and concerns related to LGBTQ people at Hope. Suggestions from interviewees include the following:

- ✓ Teach dialogue
- ✓ Bring up topic in classroom
- ✓ Publish Anchor articles interviewing LGBTQ students on campus
- ✓ Continue having Storytelling event
- ✓ Reach out to LGBTQ folks in religious formats or contexts (e.g. LGBTQ Bible Study)
- ✓ Have symposium similar to CIS on issues of sexuality
- ✓ Allow student group to form and be recognized
- ✓ GRACES (Growing Respect, Acceptance, Community, and Education on Sexuality)
- ✓ Add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to non-discrimination policy



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