

Five Perspectives

For our process of conversation and discernment we have identified five “perspectives” or “viewpoints” regarding homosexuality. There are a range of views, and not all perspectives may “fit” with the five that have been identified. Participants in scheduled conversations are invited to identify the perspective that most closely matches their own at this time. We invite all members of our province to use these as a guide for their own reflection.

These five perspectives are:

1. Some in our church who experience a homosexual orientation are not comfortable with their sexuality and have struggled with questions of self-worth and acceptance.
2. Some in our church who experience a homosexual orientation understand it as their natural sexuality and want to affirm it as normal and healthy for them. They wish to have committed same-sex unions recognized and honored by our church and desire to be accountable for living faithfully, lovingly, and generously in faithful union with a partner.
3. Some in our church who have come into close contact – in family and in friendships – with people of homosexual orientation, who are Christians, come to share that positive view. When they share in the pain of censure that may be the experience of their family members or friends, they are often motivated to advocate full acceptance of homosexuality.
4. Some in our church struggle to come to grips with this issue, wrestling with their interpretation of scripture and their desire to include all persons within the embrace of Christ’s church. They are seeking help to understand the differing perspectives in order to determine where they stand.
5. Some in our church have experienced homosexuality and homosexual activity as contrary to God’s will as they understand it – specifically that human sexuality has been designed and blessed by God as belonging to one man and one woman in marriage. For them, this experience upholds the authority of the Bible and the teaching of our church. Some within this group view those who have worked at reorientation or maintained celibacy as inspiring examples. Many who view homosexual behavior as sinful also believe scripture attests to the forgiveness of sin and the grace of God for all who have fallen short of God’s glory.