



SEXUALITY EDUCATION

IN THE

Presbyterian Church



Contents

1. **Presbyterianism**
2. **Why I Chose This Topic**
3. **My Approach**
4. **Interactive Lesson**



Presbyterianism

What is it?

Presbyterianism is a branch off of the Protestant Church that is founded on the concept of democratic rule under the Word of God. In Greek, the word prebyteros means "elder", which describes the way by which the church is governed.

- Teaching Elders – Ministers/Pastors/Preachers
- Ruling Elders – Deacons and Trustees



What is it?

- 1643 – Westminster Confession of Faith was written and now recognized as the basic creed of English-speaking Presbyterians
- 1640s – 1650s – John Calvin, known as the "Father" of Presbyterianism, developed the Reformed Theological Doctrines

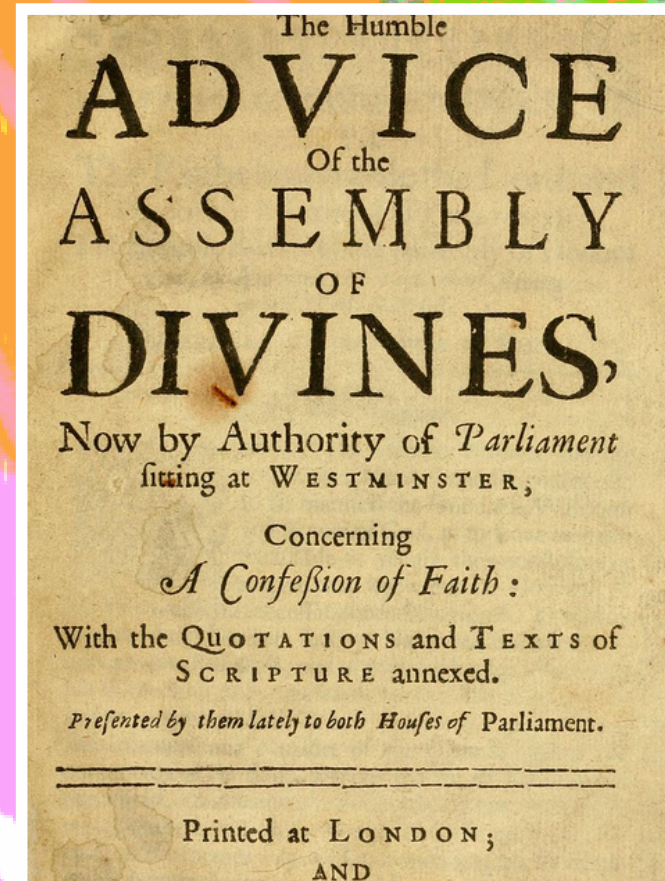
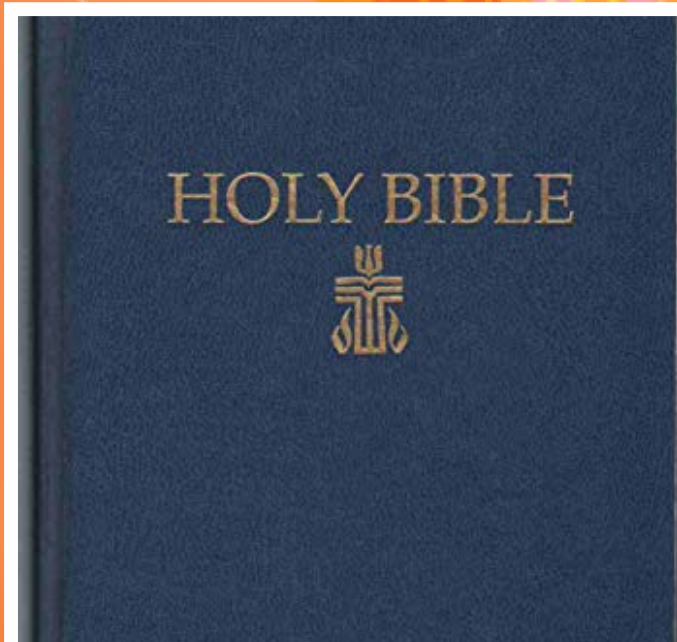


What is it?

- Believe Christ is spiritually present in the Lord's Supper
- Holy Trinity is frequently used in worship
 - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (three manifestations of God himself)
- Two main sources for inspiration and guidance in their faith
 - The Bible
 - Creeds and Confessions (Apostles' Creed, Westminster)



What is it?





Why I Chose This Topic

Why I Chose This Topic



- I grew up Presbyterian
- Unique because of its not-so literal beliefs toward some aspects of Christianity
- Educating about sexuality in the Church could be very beneficial towards older generations



My Goals

Education

- Provide an all-inclusive and extensive education surrounding sexuality in today's society and as it relates to the values of being a Presbyterian

Accessibility

- Reliable, accurate, and readily accessible information for adults about sexuality can be hard to find

Safe Space

- During this lesson, I want it to be a safe space for people to ask questions without judgement or feel like they "should have known the answer"



My Approach

My Approach



- My approach is to have an informational section where topics such as sexuality, the gender binary, and pronouns are discussed, followed by an interactive portion for people to practice what they have learned and how to approach certain situations



Interactive Lesson

What is gender?

- Gender – social and legal status as well as a set of expectations from society about behaviors, characteristics, and thoughts
- Gender Identity – how one feels on the inside and how you express your gender through clothing, behavior, and person appearance



What is the gender binary?

- Gender binary – system that classifies sex and gender into a pair of opposites, often imposed by culture, religion, or other societal pressures
 - Human population – man or woman
 - Can be useful and sometimes accurate for classification
 - Can cause discrimination against individuals who are non-binary, gender nonconforming, or transgender



Sex vs. Gender

Sex

- Refers to genetic and biological characteristics
- Chromosomes and sexual anatomy

Gender

- Social consequences of these characteristics
- Combination of cultural influence and pressure

Pronouns



- "A word that can function by itself as a noun phrase and that refers either to the participants in the discourse (e.g. I, you) or to someone/something mentioned elsewhere in the discourse (e.g. she, it, this)" (Oxford Languages)
- "Pronouns are basically how we identify ourselves apart from our name. It's how someone refers to you in a conversation" (Mary Emily O'Hara, NPR)

Pronouns



- **Asking for pronouns can be a way to show people that you see them for who they are, or who they choose to present themselves as.**
- **It shows that you accept them for who they are**
- **Introducing yourself with pronouns also creates a safe space for queer and non-queer individuals to be inclusive and accepting**

Pronouns 101

Type	Name	Example
Feminine	She, her, her	She went to the store. I spoke to her. It was her apple.
Masculine	He, him, his	He went to the store. I spoke to him. It was his apple.
Gender Neutral	They, them, their	They went to the store. I spoke to them. It was their apple.
Gender Neutral	Ze, zir/zem, zirs/zes	Ze went to the store. I spoke to zir/zem. It was zirs/zes apple.
Gender Neutral	Ze, hir, hirs	Ze went to the store. I spoke to hir. It was hirs apple.

Please note that these are not the only pronouns. There are an infinite number of pronouns as new ones emerge in our language.



The Church's Stance

Marriage

- Ministers can use their own discernment to conduct same-sex marriages where allowed by law
- Updated language in the Book of Order to describe marriage as "a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman"

Ordination

- LGBTQ ministers may be ordained at the discretion of individual presbyteries and sessions (congregations)



The Church's Stance

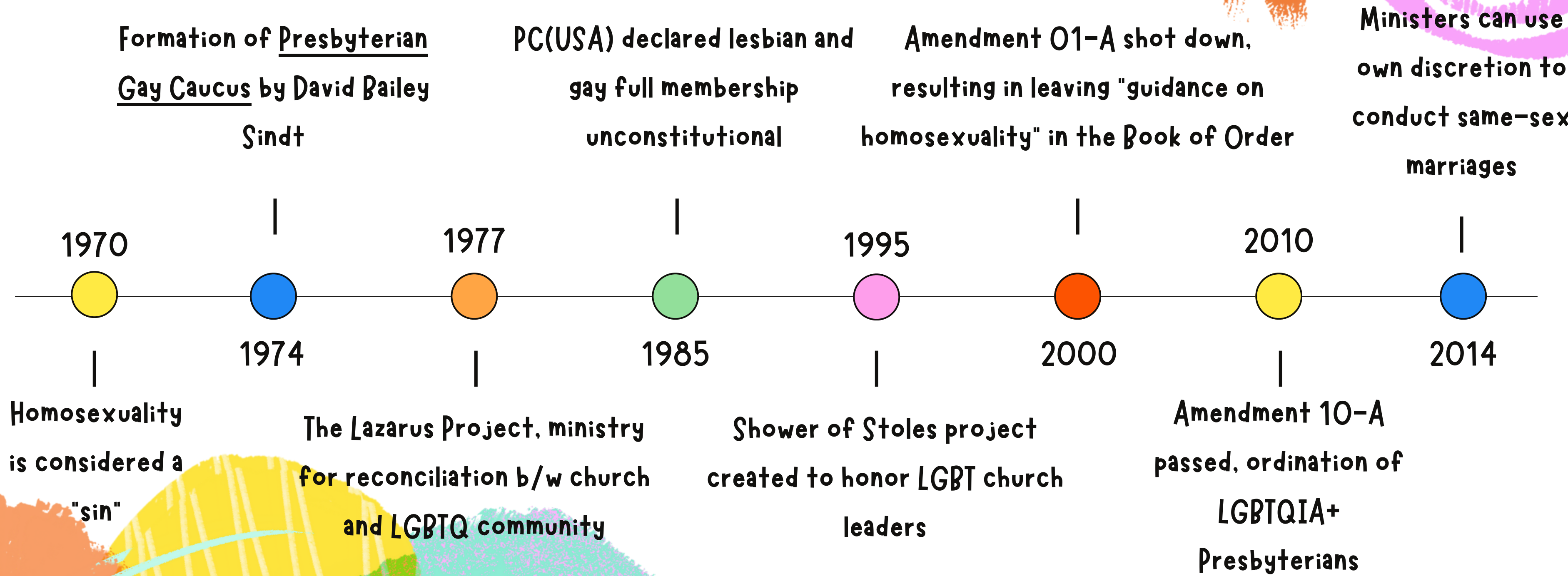
Discrimination

- No exclusion based on "race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or gender expression"

Sexual Orientation

- Full welcome, acceptance, and inclusion of transgender, non-binary, and gender-fluid people within the full life of the church

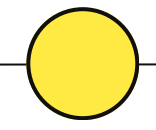
LGBTQIA+ History



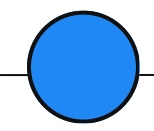
LGBTQIA+ History

Church established non-discrimination policies for all gender identities

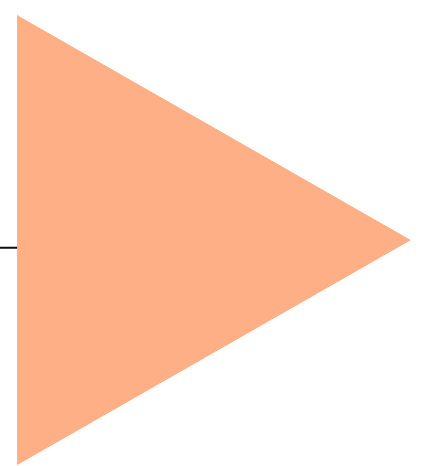
2016



Church acknowledges harm done to LGBTQIA+ Presbyterians



2018



2023



What Does The Bible Say

What Does The Bible Say



- **Creation and Gender Binary**

- **Genesis 1:27**

- **Created male and female, day and night (binary)**
- **God's creation exists in spectrums and in the same way makes each person unique that don't fit into boxes**


- **Genesis 2: 18-24**

- **Non-gendered human is created first, followed by Adam and Eve (God created two fundamentally different genders)**
- **Argument whether trans people are a result of the Fall or part of God's plan**

What Does The Bible Say



- **Being wonderfully made – Psalm 139:13-14**
 - **Implies that we are all created with love and intention and that every part of us was divinely formed (both our bodies and inner knowledge of self)**



Conclusions



Conclusions

Inclusion

- The modern Presbyterian Church is inclusive of the LGBTQIA+ community

Education

- With education about sexuality, gender identity and the binary, sexual orientation, and what the church's stances are, congregants can be more informed

Implementation

- By using the information and activities in this presentation, people can research and practice what they need to work on to be inclusive



Thank you!