Books exploring the intersection of faith and transgenderism

Omnigender: A trans-religious Approach

By Virginia Ramey Mollenkott. In Omnigender, winner of a Lambda Literary Award, Mollenkott bridges traditional religious doctrine and secular postmodern theory related to gender. Through an examination of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures and church history, and the exploration of other religions and cultures, she honors the experiences of people who do not fit within the traditional binary concept of gender: intersexual, transsexual, or otherwise transgendered individuals. This revised and expanded edition includes a new section on the sexuality of Jesus, updated factual information, and insights from more than 36 recent sources.

Mollenkott uses a multifaceted approach toward supporting her thesis. She articulates the Gender Binary and how to contradict the very people who support it. She takes a historical approach of showing the past harm the Binary has inflicted on us and gender variant people the Church has supported. Her greatest contribution is the the solid exegesis of Scripture. She not only disproves the notion that Scripture condemns transgenderism but shows it demands Christians to revoke the Binary.

Transgendering Faith: Identity, Sexuality, & Spirituality

by Leanne McCall Tigert and Maren C. Tirassi. Transgendering Faith is a resource to help churches respond with love and care to transgender people in our society, both those within the Christian community and those who find themselves--unhappily--outside its doors. It is also a book for transgender Christians, their families, pastoral counselors, and clergy. The first section, The Basics for Everyone, includes essays written by professionals and therapists who give readers a basic understanding of the transgender issue. Part Two--In Our Own Words--features stories of transgender persons from diverse denominational, age, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. These are stories of their painful experiences of rejection, self-doubt, and Bible-flavored condemnation, but also stories celebrating God's blessing of who they are and their church and family experiences of hospitality, affirmation, and reconciliation. Part Three includes worship resources, Bible studies, and transgender resources for individual and community use.

God's Word to Crossing Over: Liberating the Transgendered Christian

By Vanessa Sheridan. In Crossing Over, Vanessa Sheridan reflects on her experience and the experiences of other in order to describe the realities and dispel the myths about those who are transgendered. She urges the church to move beyond "compassionate condemnation" to embrace transgendered individuals into the full life and ministry of the church. Using tenets of liberation theology, she encourages those who are transgendered to seek sources of spiritual strength and join the struggle for justice in the church and in the larger society.
Trans-Gendered: Theology, Ministry, and Communities of Faith

By Justin Tanis. A transgendered ordained minister in the Metropolitan Community Churches, seeks to explore the spiritual nature of transgendered persons, to listen to the stories of others like himself, and to provide theological reflection on the ministries of, by and for this particular community. The book includes an introduction to trans issues, an overview of gender variance and the Bible, reflections on the intersection of transgendered people and faith communities and how to create a genuine welcome for trans people in those communities, as well as a theological analysis of gender as a calling and transgendered body theology. Dr. Tanis earned his M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School and his D.Min. from San Francisco Theological Seminary and serves on the National Advisory Board of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry.

Transgender Good News

By Pat Conover. Conover offers an excellent overview of the spectrum of human experience for those who live in gender different life. Pat has a keen intellect and comprehensive view of the gender journey through both research and personal experience. The book uses themes of biology, community, social justice, theology and other aspects to flesh out the confusing topics surrounding the Trans community.

Although it is over a decade old and many developments in the field have multiplied in thorough study, Pat has laid out a framework that will remain a foundation for understanding for future explorers of this fascinating aspect of human existence.

Cross Paths: Where Transgender and Religion Meet

Collection of articles including testimonies and experiences of trans people, and advice from pastors and allies. Available freely online at http://www.transfaithonline.org/display/article/crossing-paths-where-transgender-and-religion-meet/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1142

Transcendent Christ Transgender Christians

Exploring the relationship between Christianity and transgenderism. This is a comprehensive, detailed analysis of transgenderism from a Christian perspective. Something of an apologetic to those who believe being trans is sinful. The author, who is deceased, had stated that this is all a rough draft and not yet official. You can find the transcripts at http://www.transchristians.org/book

Still Standing: Musings of a Christian Transsexual

By Cindy Martin. Cindy Martin is a college professor, writer, Pentecostal Christian and a transsexual. She breaks every stereotype of the transgendered. She is a devout Christian and a consummate academic. Her life is remarkable in that it is unremarkable. In this book she speaks of her transition through short stories and essays, most of which were written during her transition. Taken as a whole they present the
reader with a "real time" memoir of an ordinary transsexual who is also a woman of faith. Can Christian Transsexuals exist? Cindy Martin makes a compelling case for answering "Yes."