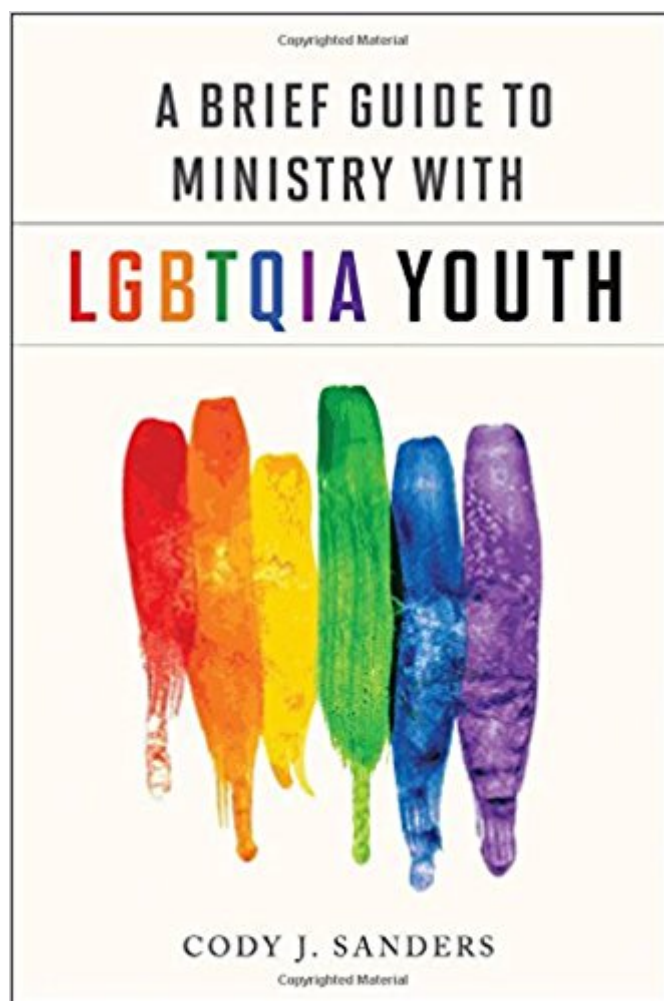


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A Brief Guide To Ministry With LGBTQIA Youth



Synopsis

Despite our best efforts to create welcoming and affirming congregations, the reality is that church can still be a harmful place to LGBTQIA youth. Inside *A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth*, author Cody J. Sanders challenges pastors and church leaders to reflect on the various trials that adolescence brings for LGBTQIA youth. Designed for congregations that currently have a theologically and biblically affirming stance toward the LGBTQIA community, this unique resource provides insight and practical advice for tough questions like: How does an affirming stance toward LGBTQIA people affect the day-to-day experience of teenagers in a church setting? In what ways can a church's youth ministry have a positive impact on the lives of LGBTQIA youth who want to fully live out their Christian faith and their gender identity? How can a pastor, youth minister, or youth ministry volunteer embrace, nurture, and provide skillful care for LGBTQIA youth in a congregation or community? A glossary of terms to use when talking about LGBTQIA issues and a list of national and location resources that can be used to support LGBTQIA youth are included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cody J. Sanders is Pastor of Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square. He holds a PhD in pastoral theology and pastoral counseling from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University and is the author of *Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight and Narrow: What All Christians Can Learn from LGBTQ Lives*, which received a 2014 National Bronze Medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards, and coauthor of *Microaggressions in Ministry: Confronting the Hidden*

Violence of Everyday Church.

“A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth” (Westminster John Knox Press, 2017) by Cody J. Sanders is a timely and needed tool for pastors and youth leaders hoping to engage today’s youth. Of course there are segments of the conservative church who will ignore what is known about human sexuality and gender identity and attempt to force youth to conform to literal and restrictive readings of Genesis 1:27: “we are either male or female, the only acceptable attractions are between male and female, and the purpose of intimacy is procreation. This book is not for them. Those folks need to do relationship and get educated in the basics about human sexuality and gender identity before they are even trusted with the lives and souls of LGBTQIA youth. But, if you already know these LGBTQIA kids are precious and not in need of fixing their orientation or gender identity and want to help disciple them in faith, Sander’s book is a great primer and resource. Sanders begins with terminology which for some will be an expansion on simple “gay-straight” categories. Next he covers sexual and affectional orientations. Not all intimate interactions result in sex. There is a brief guide of ministry question, first some considerations helping LGBTQIA youth directly (coming out and inviting into one’s world, bullying, homelessness, suicides and making referrals for additional help) then, helping the parents and families of LGBTQIA youth (family rejection, conflict in the family, finding supportive communities) and finally, help for pastors and mentors of LGBTQIA youth. If you want to create safe and welcoming environments in your churches and teach your community of youth to be more loving and respectful of those who have traditionally been marginalized, and even ostracized, start with Sander’s book. It will help you move forward in love, and if you already welcoming to LGBTQIA youth, it will help you get better.

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