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The Church & Homosexuality

Searching for a Middle Ground

by Merton P. Strommen

ISBN 1-886513-17-1 • 114 pp • \$12.00 each

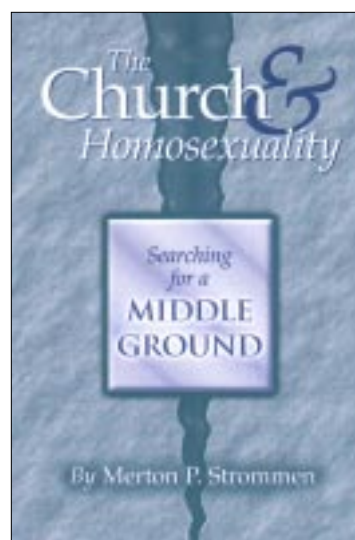
Dr. Strommen brings his years of experience as a research psychologist to the sensitive discussion of homosexuality. His careful presentation of homosexuality and homosexual behavior informs the discussion for any church forum. His analysis of the often cited biblical material respects the foundational

A major resource in the ELCA study of Homosexuality

place scripture holds for the church. He contributes to a realistic, informed, compassionate discussion of the issues surrounding homosexuality. While neither denying the biblical exegesis on the one hand nor affirming activist agendas on the other, the author cites core gospel values in challenging the church to

ministry. The middle ground places a ministry dialectic before the church — to be welcoming and to minister. It is a challenge to respect the written revelation of God and at the same time to model God's determination to love, accept, redeem, and transform.

Lifting up the church's mandate to love and minister to all people, Dr. Strommen addresses the various ministry options and programs advanced by the congregations, judicatories, and denominations.



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PUBLISHERS

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Telephone 1-888-696-1828 • Fax 952-825-2613
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www.kirkhouse.com

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Searching for a Middle Ground

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About the Author

The Rev. Dr. Strommen, a Lutheran pastor and research psychologist is widely known in Lutheran circles as the founder of Search Institute. He has conducted more than thirty nation-wide research projects which address issues of special interest to professionals and volunteers serving youth and working in the context of a religious institution.

Dr. Strommen's initial interest in the subject of homosexuality grew out of his concern for youth who are given confusing messages during the adolescent years when their sexuality is developing.

He has been responsible for the publication of scores of books and articles. The American Psychological Association, Division 36 (Psychologists Interested in Religious Issues), awarded him the William James Award and accorded him Fellow status for his pioneering work in the psychology of religion, with special reference to relationships between belief and behavior.

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7005 Garfield Ave S
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