

ABOUT: The religious traditions are nearly at one in their recognition that their teachings on human dignity have to include those who are heterosexual as well as homosexual in orientation and not to ostracize any person. Dignity of the person is the most fundamental common theme. They are much divided and often confused on the consequences to be drawn from that conclusion. Various religious bodies, both Jewish and Christian, have been at this discussion for years and many still find themselves stalemated. This conference is not intended to be prescriptive, but rather to give people of various traditions a forum in which to explore these issues within the context of covenant and community.

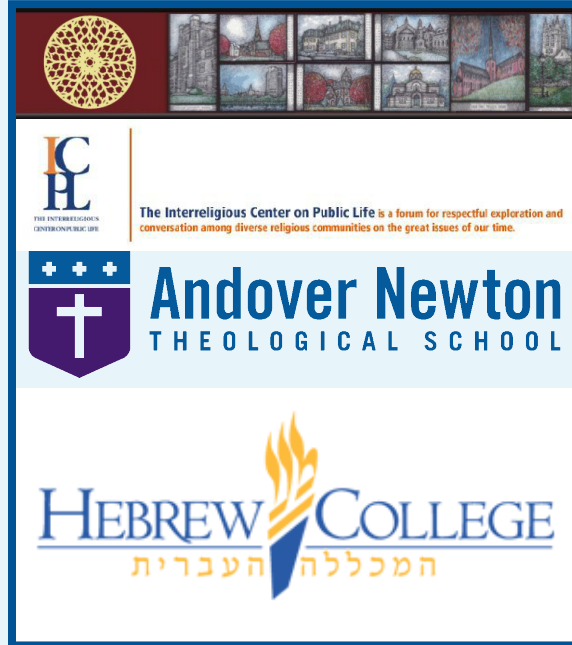
ISSUES: Issues of sexuality are fracturing our communities and religious bodies across denominational lines. From political debates over family values and same-sex marriage, to ecclesial struggles over the ordination and blessing of the unions of gays and lesbians, sexuality remains a force that can unite us in covenant and community—or one which can tear us apart. While legally recognized in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, same-sex relationships remain controversial.

Discussions about sexual orientation are embedded in a broader context. Our young people are engaging in a greater range of sexual activities than ever before, and at younger ages. Widespread exposure to sex in advertising, on the internet, and in other media often transforms sexuality into a product that can be bought and sold and cheapens sexual relationships in the process. In this conference, we shall explore these and other issues, such as same-sex relationships, in ways that affirm the dignity of sexuality. At the same time we call ourselves to a higher level of understanding and discourse about the ways in which responsible sexuality within a covenant framework is the fundamental relationship linking us to one another, to our communities, and ultimately to God

ORGANIZERS: The Task Force on Sexuality of the Inter-Religious Center on Public Life (ICPL) and the BTI has been headed by Sandy Seltzer (Hebrew College) and Rodney Petersen (Executive Director, BTI), and includes Raymond Helmick, S.J. (Boston College), Alan Katzoff (Hebrew College, 1999-2007), Nancy Nienhuis (Andover Newton Theological Seminary), John Jefferson Davis (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary), John Chirban (Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology), and M. Christian Green (Harvard Divinity School 2004-07; Emory University).

SPONSORS:

A Conference Sponsored by the
Boston Theological Institute And by
the InterReligious Center on Public
Life, in partnership with Andover
Newton Theological School and
Hebrew College



CONTACT:

(Rev.) Dr. Rodney Petersen at petersen@boston-theological.org, 617-527-4880, or Rabbi Sandy Seltzer at sseltzer@hebrewcollege.edu, 617-559-8639

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

210 Herrick Road, and
160 Herrick Road,
Newton Centre, Massachusetts
For maps and directions, visit
www.ants.edu/ants-difference/map/

Covenant, Community & Sexuality

A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY
THE BOSTON THEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE AND BY THE
INTERRELIGIOUS CENTER ON
PUBLIC LIFE, IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH ANDOVER NEWTON
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL AND
HEBREW COLLEGE



MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2008
(WILSON CHAPEL, ANDOVER NEWTON)

&

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008
(BERENSON HALL, HEBREW COLLEGE)

PLACE
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HERE

FROM

BOSTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

210 Herrick Road,
Newton Centre, MA 02459

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Covenant, Community & Sexuality

Monday, June 16, 2008

(Wilson Chapel, Andover Newton)

- 8:30 Registration (Wilson Chapel, Andover Newton)
- 8:45 Morning/Psalter Meditation
- 9:00 Welcome and Program Review: Rodney Petersen

I. MAPPING THE TERRAIN: SEXUAL EXPRESSION IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

9:15 – 10:00 “An Overview of Contemporary Debates Around Issues of Sexuality and Sexual Orientation” M. Christian Green, Emory University, Center on Law and Religion

10:15 – 11:30 Changing Lenses: How Sexuality Debates are Interpreted in Various Communities
 ♦ Jack Davis, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
 ♦ Leanne Tigert, Andover Newton Theological School

11:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00-3:15 “Early Jewish and Christian Perspectives” Mark Heim, Facilitator, Andover Newton Theological
 ♦ Michael Satlow, Brown University (1-1:30)
 ♦ Bernadette Brooten, Brandeis University (1:30-2:00)
 ♦ Robert Gagnon, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (2:00-2:30)
 ♦ Question/Answer (2:30-3:00)

3:00 – 3:15 Break

II. SEXUAL PRACTICE, COVENANT AND COMMUNITY 3:15-5:45

“Sexuality and Religious Community – Covenantal Faithfulness” Andrew Lang, United Church of Christ, Cleveland, Ohio (3:15 – 4:15)
 “The Question of Covenantal Faithfulness”
 ♦ Bryan Hehir, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard (4:15 -4:45)

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- ♦ Thomas Porter, Esq., Melick & Porter, Boston; Director of JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation, United Methodist Church (4:45-5:15)
- ♦ Questions and Answers (5:15-5:45)

5:45 – 6:15 Closing Reflections on the Day
 David Gordis, President, Hebrew College

III. OPTIONAL FILM EVENING (6:30-9PM)

- 6:30 – 7:15 “For The Bible Tells Me So” (Produced/Directed by Daniel Karslake)
- 7:15 – 7:30 Pizza Dinner Available
- 7:30 – 8:15 “What is God’s Design” (Presbyterians for Renewal)
- 8:15 – 9:00 Conversation

Tuesday, June 17

(Berenson Hall, Hebrew College)

- 8:30 Registration
 Berenson Hall, HC
- 8:45 Morning/Psalter Meditation
- 9:00 Welcome and Program Review
 Sanford Seltzer

IV. LIVING FAITHFULLY WITH OUR SEXUALITY

9:00 – 12:00 “WHAT THE CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES ARE SAYING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL,” Raymond Helmick, S.J., Facilitator, Boston College
 ♦ A Report on the Massachusetts Council of Churches Study, John Stendahl, Lutheran Church of the Newton, past President, Massachusetts Council of Churches
 ♦ Reflections on the encyclical letter of Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*, Stephen Pope, Boston College
 ♦ Conservative Judaism, Daniel Nevins, Dean Rabbinical School, Jewish Theological Seminary, New

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York
 ♦ Greek Orthodoxy, John Chirban, Hellenic College and Harvard Medical School

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 3:15 “EVANGELICALS - COVENANT AND COMMUNITY IN THE MIDST OF CONTROVERSY: A DIALOGUE,” Tony and Peggy Campolo, Eastern University, Pennsylvania

3:15 – 3:30 Break

3:30 – 6:15 “RESPONSES FROM FAITH COMMUNITIES: HOW SEXUALITY ISSUES PLAY OUT IN THE EVERYDAY,” Deacon Markos Nickolas, Facilitator, Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

♦ United Methodist: Rev, Martin McLee, Pastor of Union United Methodist Church in the South End, a Welcoming and Affirming congregation. Rev. McLee is Chair of the HIV/AIDS Committee of the Black Ministerial Alliance (3:30-3:50)

♦ Roman Catholic: Maria Theresa Davila, Andover Newton Theological School (3:50-4:10)

♦ Anglican/Episcopal, Rev. Ian Douglas, Episcopal Divinity School (4:10-4:30)

4:30-4:45 Break

♦ Kristin Johnson (4:45-5:05), First Presbyterian Church, Orlando

♦ Reform Jewish, Rabbi Howard Jaffe, Temple Isaiah, Lexington (5:05-5:25)

♦ United Church of Christ, Rev. Jim Antal, Conference Minister (5:25-5:45)

♦ **Q & A (5:45-6:15)**

6:15 – 6:30 Closing Reflections on the Day
 Nick Carter, President, Andover Newton Theological School

6:30-7:30 Closing Reception

PLEASE, REGISTER ME FOR THE CONFERENCE!

REGISTRATION CHARGES (CIRCLE ITEMS THAT ARE APPLICABLE)

	Advance registration	After June 2, 2008
Students	\$50.00	\$75.00
Non-Students	\$75.00	\$100.00
Contribution as able:	\$10.00 - \$25.00	

PLEASE WRITE A CHECK PAYABLE TO: “Boston Theological Institute”

& mail it to: Boston Theological Institute || 210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459

Conference fee includes refreshments, lunch (Monday & Tuesday) and conference materials.