
Study Description:

This is a small qualitative exploratory study of five lesbian participants. It is anticipated that this research will be used for the purposes of promoting education and social justice in the RCA. It is also anticipated that the findings will enhance the ability of pastoral counselors and other mental health professionals to enhance their work with LGBT clergy. Finally, it is hoped that this research may pave the road for future study on LGBT clergy-related issues.

Doctoral Research is being conducted by:

Rev. Pamela Pater-Ennis, LCSW

I am a minister in the Reformed Church in America and a licensed clinical social worker in both New York and New Jersey. In addition to this research, I teach pastoral studies at the Blanton-Peale Institute in New York City and have a private practice, the Hudson River Care & Counseling, LLC in Englewood and Hoboken, New Jersey



CLERGY RESEARCH

**Hudson River Care
& Counseling, LLC**

**61 Grand Avenue
Englewood, NJ
07631 or
63-A Eighth Street
Hoboken, NJ
07030**

Would you like to promote LGBT inclusion in the RCA by participating in this research study?

THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF LESBIAN CLERGY IN THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA: The Formation of their Religious, Spiritual, and Sexual Identities

If you are interested in participating, please contact Pamela Pater-Ennis at:

**Tel: 201-962-6443 (cell)
clergyresearch@yahoo.com**

Aims of the Study:

(1) To explore the lived experiences of the sample of lesbian RCA clergy; (2) to explore whether and how the sampled lesbian RCA clergy have experienced “fit” in their families, in their communities, and in their denominations; (3) to understand the meanings that the sampled lesbian RCA clergy attach to their personal histories; and (4) to understand how the lesbian RCA clergy perceive themselves regarding each of the domains of their religious, spiritual, and sexual identities.

Do I Qualify?

- **If you identify as lesbian**
- **If you are currently in Seminary or a Seminary graduate**
- **If you hold a RCA ordination and/or have an active ministry in the RCA**
- **If you are willing to consent to being digitally recorded in three (3) 90-minute interviews over a period of two to three days**

The Research Question:

HOW DO THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF LESBIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA (RCA) CLERGY IMPACT UPON THEIR RELIGIOUS, SPIRITUAL, AND SEXUAL IDENTITIES?

Clergy Research

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