

Scripture and Marriage Equality: Resources

2006 Colloquy resource materials



Policy regarding gay and lesbian Jews:

– Congregation Adat Shalom*, Bethesda, MD

1. Adat Shalom welcomes all Jews, regardless of their sexual orientation, as full participants in the religious practices of the congregation.
- 2 Same-gender couples who adopt or give birth to children should be encouraged to bring their children into the Jewish covenant through public rites of Brit Milah for boys and public covenant ceremonies during Shabbat service for both boys and girls.
3. In the same way that heterosexual couples may seek to celebrate milestones in their married life by a joint aliyah, we welcome similar life passage rituals for same-sex couples.
4. We recognize that “commitment ceremonies” have been developed and have been used by some same-gender couples to sanctify their union. It is, however, beyond the authority of the congregation to recommend in favor of or against rabbinic officiation at such ceremonies since we acknowledge that that decision is the prerogative of the rabbi. While respecting the right of an Adat Shalom rabbi to follow his or her conscience with respect to officiating at a same-gender commitment ceremony, we affirm that whether or not the rabbi officiates, the same-gender couple shall have the same access to other congregational resources made, available to a heterosexual couple getting married, including access to a building when the congregation acquires one.

* <http://adatshalom.net>