Religion and Sexuality

Objective:
1) Introduce students to the connection between religion and sexuality
2) Explore how religious beliefs, behaviors, and affiliations influence views of sexuality
3) Examine the religious lives of gays and lesbians
4) Familiarize students with online research tools

Activity:
Using the QuickStats tool on The ARDA, explore the attitudes and demographic and religious patterns of Americans attitudes on sexuality by clicking the U.S. Surveys tab and “Moral Issues.” Possible topics include homosexuality, same-sex marriage, extramarital sex, or sex before marriage.

Using the Compare Members tool within the American Denominations QuickStats page, compare the attitudes toward homosexuality of members of up to five American denominations

View one of the videos of a worship service of a Metropolitan Community Church congregation on The ARDA’s YouTube channel (The MCC is a denomination focused on serving the gay community; more information here)

Using the Methodist Religious Events and People Interactive Timeline, read about the “Rise of Equal Rights Movement” and “UMC General Conference Denies Sexuality Amendment”

Assessment:
Direct students to complete the Religion and Views on Homosexuality learning module

Drawing on what they now know, direct students to write a response piece to one of the Ahead of the Trend articles on sexuality in the Press Room of The ARDA

Students can complete the Compare Yourself survey in The Learning Center of The ARDA paying particular attention to how they compare on the moral attitude questions concerning sexuality to similar individuals in the survey

Suggested readings:


