

What does Salem-Cass United Methodist Church believe about the Bible?

We Believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God revealing the love of God to the world

Rob Renfroe & Adam Hamilton

What Does Rob Renfroe say about the Bible?

- “The Bible is inspired by God which means it is authoritative. It tells us how to live, how to please God, and what is true spiritually, and morally.”
- “It’s God’s book.”
- It’s the measuring rod that we measure all spiritual and moral claims by. If they measure up to what’s in the Bible, we accept them. If they don’t, we reject them. It’s God telling us what is right and true.”
- “We cannot recreate the Bible for our own liking.”
- “All Scripture is God breathed and God inspired, and profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training.”
- “When it comes to the inspiration of the Bible, I will choose to stand next to the apostle Paul, instead of the 21st century pastor for a postmodern culture, every time.”
- “The Word of God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
- “We believe the Scriptures ARE the word of God.”
- “If the Bible contains it, it is not our job to correct it.”
- “If the Bible teaches it, it is not our prerogative to twist it.”
- “We choose to stand under the authority of the Bible, not over the authority of the Bible.”
- If we don’t like what the Bible says, the problem is not with the Bible, it’s with us.”

What does Rob Renfroe say about homosexuality, and marrying homosexuals in the church?

- “If you can’t love a person because he or she is gay, you have a bigger problem than they do.”
- “We believe that human sexuality is a gift of God that is to be affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman.”

What Does Adam Hamilton say about the Bible

- “The biblical authors wrote in particular times, for particular audiences, out of a particular context. Part of rightly interpreting Scripture is reading it in the light of what we can know about its historical and cultural context, the author’s purposes in writing and knowing something about the people they were writing to.”
- “In [2 Timothy 3:16](#) Paul writes, “All Scripture is inspired by God...” Christians often assume they know what this means, but Paul seems to have created the word “inspired.” It does not appear in the Greek language before this and is used nowhere else in the Bible. It literally means “God-breathed” but Paul doesn’t go on to explain precisely what he means. It is a metaphor, and metaphors are not precise. Push them too far and they break down.”
- “When I think of inspired, I think of God-influenced. This leaves open a variety of ways in which the biblical authors were influenced by God.”
- “My premise is that the Bible is the words of people who were influenced by God, and yet who were also shaped by the times in which they lived.”

- “The Bible is complex and, while influenced by God, it is not dictated by God. It reflects the humanity of the biblical authors and the times in which they lived.”
- The Bible & Scripture is divided into three buckets; one bucket hold Scriptures that reveals God will when they were written, and still do. Another bucket holds those parts of the Bible that used to express God’s will, but no longer do. The final bucket holds those parts of the Bible that never reflected God’s will and heart.”

What does Adam Hamilton say about homosexuality and marrying homosexuals in the church?

- “Conservatives often suggest homosexuality is an issue of biblical authority. I believe the Bible has authority in my life and for the church and, in the words of II Timothy 3:16, it is, “useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” But I also believe that the five passages that speak to some form of same-sex intimacy do not describe God’s timeless will for humanity any more than the passages on violence, or slavery, or women describe God’s timeless will. The issue is not authority, it is our assumptions about the Bible and the way we interpret it.”
- Church Website - Resurrection requires the *Prepare & Enrich* course as the premarital preparation class before being married by a Resurrection pastor. The Premarital and Newlywed course is open to all dating couples and is a requirement for any couple desiring to be married by a Resurrection pastor. There are several opportunities to complete this course throughout the year. The course is also available to those who haven’t set a wedding date. This course, like all of Resurrection's ministries, is open and welcoming of all couples, regardless of sexual orientation. Although denominational policy currently restricts our ability to host and officiate same-gender marriages, there are other ways we can support your special day. Please email weddings@cor.org for additional information.