

## Biography

### Doctor Gary Strauss

I was born into a Mennonite Brethren home in southern California in 1938, with all four of my grandparents coming to the U.S. as young singles from a Mennonite Brethren colony located in the Ukraine, which was then Russian territory. They all settled in the community of Mountain Lake, MN, married and moved west, where I was born two generations later.

I asked the Lord Jesus to be my savior when I was about the age of seven, and have followed the Lord since that time (but not without my share of struggles and failures along the way).

I began my college education at what was then Biola Bible College. I was greatly blessed to meet my wife there, with us now being in our 58<sup>th</sup> year of marriage. We have one child, a daughter, who is part of my story related to issues of sexual difference. And she has one daughter, so we are a nuclear family of four, all native Californians.

I pursued graduate studies at the University of Northern Iowa and at Northern Illinois University. I taught for four years at the University of Houston, before joining the faculty of Rosemead School of Psychology, a school of Biola University in SoCal. In addition to my teaching, I served as a staff psychologist at the Biola Counseling Center until age 65, where I worked with a variety of clients, including individuals who experienced same-sex attraction. I currently am still teaching the undergraduate human sexuality course at Biola as an adjunct professor, a course I have taught for almost 40 years.

Since coming to Minnesota, where our daughter and her spouse live, I have had opportunity to serve the Evangelical Covenant Northwest Conference by facilitating a total of 12 groups for pastors and church leaders, where they had the opportunity to share their experiences with and thoughts and concerns about ministry to a sexually diverse society. I am a member of Bethlehem Covenant Church in Minneapolis, where I have presented what I will be presenting to you, and have the opportunity to sing in the choir.