

Christian Author Sarah Bessey Leaves Vineyard Canada Over LGBT Stance

Christian author and blogger Sarah Bessey announced today that she and her family are leaving their local church and are no longer connected to Vineyard Canada. She writes on Facebook that they made the decision based on differences with the charismatic network regarding LGBT inclusivity.

“Over the past year, it has become clear that our mutual ability to hold the tension of our disagreements has ended,” she writes. “I’ll name the elephant in the room: yes, this is mostly related to my inclusive position for LGBTQ+ believers. In our personal life as well as in my public ministry, we have never made a secret of those convictions as I have been openly affirming for many years now. ... Over the past year, it has become clear that LGBTQ+ believers (and those of us who affirm them) are not fully welcome to the life of Christ within our community,” she says. “Now that the line is being drawn within the Vineyard Canada and our particular church, we willingly place ourselves with those on the other side of it.”

Bessey is known for her vulnerable and progressive approach to faith with books like *Jesus Feminist*, *Out of Sorts* and *Miracles and Other Reasonable Things*.

She openly affirmed same-sex marriage 10 years ago and believes practicing gay Christians should be included in the church, according to her blog.

Bessey says several aspects regarding how the split between her family and the church happened hurt deeply.

“As painful as these months have been for so many reasons, you also need you [sic] to know that we hold no bitterness,

judgement, or anger. I believe there is a lot of love between all of us.”

Read Bessey’s post in its entirety below: