

# Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Foreword by Carol Penner   | vii |
| Preface  | x   |
| Introduction: An Interview with the Author                         | xv  |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>Part One</b>  |     |
| <b>Sex, Love, Intimacy, and Abuse</b>                              |     |
| 1. Painful Musings – with Some Hope                                | 3   |
| 2. Kissing Frogs – and Other Valentine’s<br>Intimacies             | 10  |
| 3. Shelter in a Time of Storm – Sexual Abuse                       | 18  |
| 4. In the Image of God   | 29  |
| A Postscript on Patriarchy (1993)                                  | 39  |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>Part Two</b>  |     |
| <b>Sexuality in Story, Poetry, and Song</b>                        |     |
| 5. A Symphony of Sensuality  | 47  |
| 6. A Little Story Challenges Abusive Power                         | 54  |
| 7. Esther: the Sexy, Violent Book?                                 | 61  |
| 8. Love, Adultery, and Love Again                                  | 70  |
| 9. Sex, Intimacy & Violence – the Story of<br>Samson               | 77  |
| 10. Racism, Love and Sex – the Story of Ruth                       | 86  |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>Part Three</b>  |     |
| <b>Exploring Contemporary Questions<br/>Around Human Sexuality</b> |     |
| 11. A Biblical Perspective on Human Sexuality                      | 95  |
| 12. Intimacy and Power: The Ongoing Struggle                       | 105 |
| 13. Accountability, Priests, Prophets and Sages                    | 113 |

## Part Four

### Weddings and Marriage

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 14. Sexuality in the Wedding      | 127 |
| 15. Images of Intimacy            | 136 |
| 16. An Encompassing Intimacy      | 141 |
| 17. Love in a Reflective Mode     | 147 |
| A Prayer of Thanks and Confession | 158 |

## Part Five

### Appendix: Resources

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Flower of Intimacy Exercise                    | 161 |
| 2. An Essay on Homosexuality                      | 163 |
| 3. Resolution on Human Sexuality                  | 197 |
| 4. Resources on Abuse Reporting and<br>Prevention | 200 |
| 5. Violence & Abuse - Liturgical Resource         | 201 |
| 6. List of Scripture Passages (Sermons #1-17)     | 211 |
| Notes   | 212 |
| Acknowledgments                                   | 216 |
| About the Author                                  | 218 |