

Letters to the Church
10/23/2011
Pilgrim Point UCC Camp, Minnesota

Dear Church,

We have been learning about sexuality and our faith. We think it's very important to inform youth with correct information about sex and sexuality. The values we learned through this program will help us to make good decisions in the future. Although abstinence is important, the vast majority of teens do not practice abstinence, so safe sex education is very important. Learning about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships helped us to know how to build strong relationships. We came to understand that respect, trust, caring, communications and humor are characteristics that are important to us in a long, lasting relationship. We would rather learn about sex through our church rather than through the inaccurate media. Sex is a good thing, but learning about our sexuality is even better!

Sincerely,

Allison, Pam, Ashan, Ben, Jordan, Ainsley, Ryan, Spencer

Dear Church,

Thanks for this opportunity to learn real, valid information regarding sex education. We feel it's been beneficial to our emotional, physical, and spiritual well being. We learned that sex has a lot of consequences and it is a huge decision that should be thought out and prepared for. We had a chance to talk about healthy and unhealthy relationships. The topic of sex was normalized and was made comfortable among discussion. Thank you for your time. Amen!

-Courtney, Hope, Lindsey, Taresa, Chuck, Amelia, Cassie, T.J., Becca, Claire, Amy

Dear UCC,

Our Whole Lives "OWL" has opened our eyes to a sexuality with a faith based foundation. They gave us the benefit of the doubt that we are mature and responsible to handle knowledge about sex. We are now able to make informed decisions about being sexually active. Through real life applications and listening to our moral values, we have a better sense of how our sexuality and faith go together.

Thanks!

Abby, Reid, Sara, Nick, Scott, Bradley, Laura, Sierra, Elizabeth, Cameron, Melia

Dear Church,

We believe that OWL is important, legitimate information. Without OWL—sexuality is scary, foreign, and doesn't seem to fit in with our religious lives. Sexuality can be beautiful, holy, sacred, and is an important part of a healthy, spiritual life. It teaches us that our values (self-worth, responsibility, sexual health, justice, inclusivity) and our sexuality go hand in hand. The church should walk with us on this journey and help us involve our families.

Peace & Blessings,

Greg, Jason, Holly, Sapphire, Sharon, Taylor, Brandon, Cassie, Natalie, Ruchele

Dear Church,

Our small group has learned and experienced so much on this journey through our faith and sexuality. Thank you so much for teaching us about sexual health, responsibility, justice, and self-worth. What you have done is helped us to distinguish the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships. We feel that this lesson has opened our eyes and will help us all make good and healthy sexual decisions. We wish every church could have this opportunity to experience the feeling of being Children of God. Thank you so much for trusting us and challenging our ideas/values about our faith and sexuality.

God Bless,

Nora, Elle, Zach, Claire, Mary, Spencer, Jarin, Harry, Amy, Ann, and Laine

Dear Church,

What we've learned this weekend is that abstinence only education does not work because the US has a high rate of teen pregnancy. We learned respect, responsibility, self-worth, sexual health justice, and inclusivity are the values of our faith and of a positive sexual being. Intimacy is not just intercourse; it's an emotional closeness with another person. We learned about the five circles of sexuality which are sensuality, intimacy, sexual health & reproduction, gender identity & orientation, and sexualization. Those five circles taught us that there is more to sexuality than just the act. A lot of us learned how to use condoms and why to use them. We appreciate that our church cares enough about us that they would give us this information.

-Chris, Kayla, Brittany, Jackie, Kirby, Mitchell, Anna, Dylan, Elizabeth, Mike, Sabrina, Collin