These Are Our Bodies
Talking Faith & Sexuality at Church & Home

Calvin and Hobbes

Made in God's own image, yes sir!

God must have a goofy sense of humor.
What are the most important components of a sexuality education program?

What is the definition of “sexuality”?

What is the stance of The Episcopal Church regarding sexuality and the sacredness of our bodies?
Sexuality: A Divine Gift

The Episcopal Church is a sacramental church. Anglicans claim a union of physical experience and inward grace both in the sacraments of the church and in our daily lives.

The church increasingly understands that our sexuality is an important (though not only) means by which we learn to be lovers. Our awareness of each other, our acceptance or our affection for each other as God’s creations, and our delight in the special gifts that each of us brings to a relationship because of our sexuality—all these are evidence of the blessings that God intends for us in our dealings with each other.
You are holy.

Sexuality is good.

Sexuality is powerful.

You are not alone.

You must take responsibility
The complexity of sexuality

- Theological
  - Made in the image of God
  - Our Baptismal Covenant

- Ethical
  - Language
  - Responsibility

- Biological
  - Developmental stages

- Practical
  - Tools for learning
Genesis 1:26-27, 31 ~ Isaiah 62:5 ~ Psalm 139
How was sexuality discussed in your family when you were growing up? What, if anything, do you wish had been different?

What is the obligation of a faith community for sharing and interpreting issues of sexuality together, across generations?

How have you been able to reflect (theologically and spiritually) about the diversity of human sexuality and gender in our society today? Where have you struggled? What questions remain for you?
Honoring the Body and the Family

“The undivided self = body and soul

A shared practice

Parents are their child’s primary sex educators

The role of the Church

Being realistic and relevant

“Communities exist by shared symbols, language, communication, and meanings. And that is the essence of our sexuality.”

—James B. Nelson *Embodiment: An Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology*
Childhood

Teaching language, self-esteem, self-image, care and respect for self and others.
The Ethical

“Human sexuality, however, is more than a cosmic, vital force. Sexuality is also a language of mutual recognition. What is desired is not simply the body but the life formed together, a desire for love.”

— Timothy Sedgwick

A Christian Moral Life

Language use
Sexuality continuum
Radical hospitality
Care for the body
Body image
Responsible behavior
Decision making
Consent and shame
Beyond stereotypes
We are COMPLEX
Self-Image
Responsible
Empowered

Now this is what we call a workout.

There are a lot of exercise programs to choose from, but none can match ballroom dancing for pure cardiac stimulation. And isn’t that what it’s all about?

Out of the Clear Blue Sky.

More than just a shoe. Express you.

With the Converse Sneaker Creator you can create your very own shoe uniquely for you! Go to converse.com
# The Gender Unicorn

**Graphic by:** [TSER](https://www.transstudent.org)

**Design by:** Landyn Pan

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender Identity</th>
<th>Female/Woman/Girl</th>
<th>Male/Man/Boy</th>
<th>Other Gender(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Expression/Presentation</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Assigned at Birth</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Other/Intersex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexually Attracted To</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Other Gender(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romantically/Emotionally Attracted To</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To learn more go to: [www.transstudent.org/gender](https://www.transstudent.org/gender)
The Biological & Practical
Preschool and Elementary (Children)

Children: We are ....

- Wonderful
- Unique
- Loved
- Changing
- Knowledgeable
- Complex
- Equipped
- Called
- Building the container
- Maturing
- Called
- Building the container
- Maturing
Middle School: You are ....

- God’s Creation
- Knowledgeable
- Complex
- Connected
- Accepted
- Empowered
- Relational
- Thoughtful
- Responsible

“At your age, Tommy, a boy’s body goes through changes that are not always easy to understand.”
High School: Our ....

- Language
- Value System
- Identity
- Self-Image
- Relationship
- Health
- Dignity
- Theology
The World yearns for ....

- Connection
- Love
- Covenant
- Pleasure
- Empowerment
- Wholeness
- Mutuality
- Mystery
- Respect

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.
You are made in the *Imago Dei*

Go forth and celebrate how unique and loved you are!