
CLOSING WORDS

“Love—rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 Corinthians 13: 6–7



Lifespan sexuality education is only a part of the foundation of a sexually healthy faith community.⁵³

A sexually healthy faith community is committed to fostering spiritual, sexual and emotional health among the congregation and providing a safe environment where sexuality issues are addressed with respect, mutuality and openness. Every faith community – whether progressive or conservative, liberal or evangelical, Jewish or Christian or Muslim – is called to address the sexuality needs of the people it serves. Our traditions affirm that sexuality is a divinely-bestowed blessing that should never be abused or exploited. Every religious community has an important role in helping people become sexually healthy adults who express their sexuality in ways congruent with their religious and ethical values.

In a sexually healthy faith community:

- Sexuality is affirmed as a life-giving and life-fulfilling gift.
- Every person is treated with dignity and worth.
- There is full inclusion of women and sexual minorities in congregational life.
- There are policies to assure the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.
- Every adult—whether single, married, divorced, widowed, gay or straight, young or

old, able-bodied or disabled—finds support and affirmation for their life situation.

- Families are valued as the primary moral and sexuality educators of their children.
- Youth are valued members of the community.
- Pastoral counseling and support on sexuality issues are available from trained counselors to those whose sexuality has been broken.
- Age-appropriate sexuality education within the faith tradition is available throughout the life span.
- Social action committees work for sexual justice.
- The congregation plays an active role in supporting public school education, including sexuality education.
- There is a commitment to fostering spiritual, sexual, and emotional health.

We are called upon as religious people to acknowledge the inherent goodness of sexuality as part of creation and to respond to abuses of this sacred gift. The Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing ends, “God rejoices when we celebrate our sexuality with holiness and integrity.” May your work in promoting sexuality education to your members be a small contribution to this process. And so may it be.