

Statistics

South Carolina

Teen pregnancy yearly cost = \$197 million
38% of teens who have babies complete high school

Only 2% of teen mothers ever complete a higher education degree

Children of teen mothers have lower birth weights, are more likely to perform poorly in school and at greater risk of abuse and neglect

Are less prepared to enter the school system and score lower on measures of school readiness

Are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, less likely to complete high school, and have lower performance on standardized tests. Sons of teen mothers are 13% more likely to end up in prison

Daughters of teen mothers are 22% more likely to become teen mothers themselves. 6,847 15-19 year olds gave birth in 2010

Nearly 80 percent of unmarried teen mothers are receiving assistance

Response to Resolution

- Responding to the 2010 Resolution that strongly encouraged local churches take some responsibility for sex education of our children and youth.
- BOD ¶161 F: "We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift...The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth and young adults." This mandate from the BOD 2008 falls under "The Nurturing Community" in our Social Principles. If the church is going to truly be a nurturing community, we must address the area of sex and sexuality with our children and youth. As a denomination, we already have established beliefs about sex and sexuality, now we just need to teach our children on what we believe.

BE It RESOLVED, that before the 2012 South Carolina Annual Conference convenes each United Methodist Church or Charge in South Carolina shall provide a comprehensive program of sex education for its young people; and be it further RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Conference Office of Connectional Ministries appoint a committee to identify existing resources or develop an appropriate curriculum that churches could use for this purpose.



South Carolina Annual Conference

Response to Sex Education Resolution

Theological Rationale

John Wesley, the father of our denomination, preached and wrote about holistic health—the connection of the body, mind and spirit as a complete whole. Part of holistic health includes sexual health. As adult leaders and parents in our church God has given us the responsibility to pass down our faith to our children. As God's people we have been charged to "write God's Word and commands upon your heart and soul...and teach them to your children, talking about them at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise" (*Deuteronomy 11:18-19*).

As God's people, we must begin to think about sex education as a spiritual matter, and not leave it up to the secular world to instruct our children and youth. Comprehensive spiritual formation of our children and youth must include sexuality education. The church doesn't merely want to increase knowledge through sex education, but we want to encourage inward and outward change that leads to healthier lifestyle changes in the lives of our children.

For God, our children, and the future of our church, we must have the courage to have THE conversation.

Curriculum



Good Sex 2.0: What (almost) nobody will tell you about sex, you'll explore the truth about sexuality based on what God has to say about it, as well as what the latest research reveals. Curriculum includes an orientation session for parents in a 90 minute format. The intent is to build a partnership with parents through sharing statistics related to sexual activity in teens the need for the conversation to be a part of the church culture and to hear and possibly address concerns parents have already encountered with their teens and offer assistance. There is a DVD and printed materials to enhance the discussion along with a student journal. The youth leader and youth engage in times of self reflection as they discover what the Bible has to say about their sexuality.

Created By God : In the spirit of Imago Dei ("image of God"), the Created by God curriculum instructs tweens in a healthy sex education through exploration of scripture, anatomy, and relationships. This is not the sex ed we were taught in school, but rather a fun, educational class where information is exchanged through authentic and loving conversation

Training For Trainers

INFORMATION AND TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

We are seeking persons from each district (both men and women) who have interests and feel called to this ministry of offering sex education to our local churches.

First: We want to offer you an information session. This will be a time to come and see what it is all about and to see whether or not it is a fit for you.

Saturday July 14, 10:30-12:30
Places to be Announced at Conference.

Second: We will train in both Youth (13-18yrs) Good Sex 2. and Tweens (9-12 yrs.) Created By God

September 15, 2012
At Virginia Wingard.
9am-3pm.