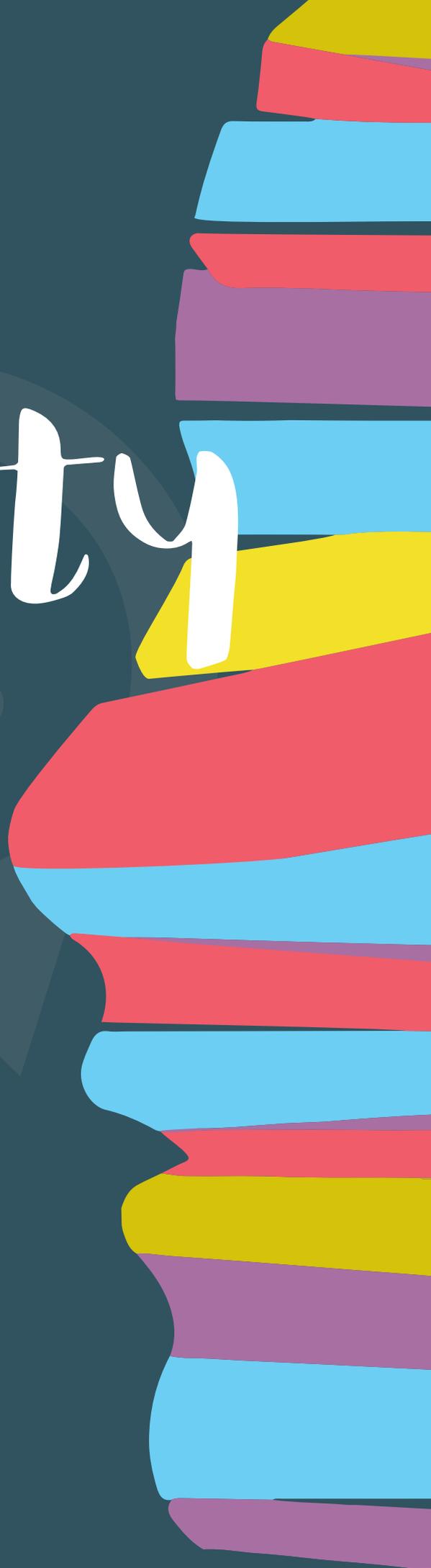




Sexuality

DISCUSSION SESSION 4

**What Should We
Do Next?**



Note to Discussion Sessions

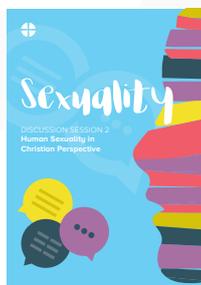
The following discussion session is part of a 4 series programme which has been designed to be used in a group from a local congregation or circuit. You can decide how much or how little of the suggested format to use. You know your context best. Please, modify or adapt the sessions as you see fit for the comfort level of your participants. If the full plan is followed, you should allow an hour to an hour and a half for each of the four sessions, which might easily be scheduled one night a week for a month.

The session guides are complements to and assume that participants will have read 'Sexuality – Developing Good Conversation on Difficult Questions' or the relevant sections of the document for each session prior to attendance. If your group does not wish to work in this way, you may plan to have some copies of the document on hand for people to review the relevant sections over a cup of tea/coffee prior to the start of the session.

Session 1 Why This, Why Now



Session 2 Human Sexuality in Christian Perspective



Session 3 Discussing Homosexuality



Session 4 What Should We Do next



🌐 All of these can be downloaded from www.irishmethodist.org/WPHS

Sexuality

DISCUSSION SESSION 4

**What Should We
Do Next?**



You Will Need:

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Copy of 'Sexuality – Developing Good Conversation on Difficult Questions' for each participant
- ✓ Copy of any notes taken as a group in previous sessions
- ✓ 'What Next' handout for each participant.

Open the Session with prayer.

PRAYER

Endlessly creative God, you have breathed diverse gifts into your Church. May we learn our roles in bringing about your just and gentle reign through our gifts and in response to your spirit. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

ICE-BREAKER

 10 mins

Ask everyone to decide which of the following describes their typical activities most: Doer, Thinker, Speaker, Supporter.

Give each a motion or noise to make that corresponds to their role. The doers should have a work activity – such as making a motion like swinging a hammer.

The thinkers could adopt the 'thinker' pose. Speakers should say something like 'the thing you need to realise is' loudly (people can put on accents if they think that's fun).

The Supporters could throw their arms out like offering a hug to the air and say 'I'm here for you.' (If your group is likely to find this activity daunting, you can invite people to simply raise their hand when they hear a reference to activities of the group they've identified themselves with)

Have every practice their motion/action/saying. Then, ask them to listen carefully for references to their type of activity while you read a passage. Whenever they hear something that is them (doer, thinker, speaker, supporter) they should make their noise/do their motion (or in the alternate version of this activity, raise their hand).

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-18 (NRSV):



⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. ¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing,

where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

Invite group members to offer any reflections on how they felt about their participation. Did everyone get equal opportunities? Were there places where more than one group was acting in response to the same thing?

REVIEWING OUR THINKING

 30-40 mins

According to 'Sexuality – Developing Good Conversation on Difficult Questions': 'One – but only one – of the questions raised by recent changes in society is whether a Christian theology of marriage can or should embrace a relationship between two people of the same sex.'

Ask people to form groups of two or three to discuss: What did you think about this statement when our sessions began? What do you think now? What is the most important thing for you in what we have said and done in these three sessions?

Have the group share what they have learned and thought.

Review together the notes you took on your conversations each week. Recall what the group thought about the sexualisation of our culture, human sexuality and marriage, and homosexuality.

Divide the group into the doers, the thinkers, the speakers and the supporters from earlier. Give each group a 'What Next' handout and ask them to address the questions specifically as their role – i.e. what should the doers be doing, what should the speakers be saying, etc.

Invite each group to share their responses with everyone.

Ask the group what they would like to carry forward for further thinking and action as a community.

As a group, discuss what you would like to share with the wider Methodist Connexion from your discussion over the past four sessions. Please note: It would be helpful to the Working Party on Human Sexuality to have your response to this question by the end of 2017.

Please send your response to: wphs@irishmethodist.org, using the pro-forma for responses available for download from www.irishmethodist.org/WPHS

Close the sessions with open prayer

PRAYER

Invite anyone who feels comfortable to speak out a prayer, or for members of the group to pray in silence. Close this time of prayer with 'The Grace.'



What Next?

AS A GROUP WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN EACH OF THESE:

1. What can the church do to become a community that helps people express their sexuality in healthy and fruitful ways?

3. What might the Holy Spirit be saying to us through the many changes in society's attitudes to sexuality?

2. How welcoming can we be to those who do not conform to the traditional norms?
What would this look like?
What is our role?

4. What are the most pressing matters about human sexuality in our community?
What can/should we be doing, saying, thinking?
What would this look like?