



February 16, 2010

Dear Parents,

You and your Middle School child are invited to participate in the Christian View of Sex Conference at Cove for youth and their parents on Thursday, April 8, Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10. This course has been offered at many churches in the North Alabama Conference throughout the years and has had very positive responses from parents and youth. The comment we hear most from youth is: "Every middle school student should have to do this!." This is high praise from middle schoolers!

The United Methodist Church has offered this course for over forty years. It has proven to be a very valuable experience for youth and parents and it comes highly recommended by my youth pastor friends who have presented it at their churches.. It presents a fun, relaxed, and comfortable atmosphere in which the youth can learn about their own sexuality, how it relates to them as a Christian and the responsibility that goes along with being sexually aware. We focus on small group experiences, which include boys and girls of similar age and maturity with a male and female adult leader.

The purpose of this course is to present the Christian attitude toward human sexuality and to open communication between parents and youth about the sexual aspect of our lives. The course is certified under the authorization of the General Board of Education of the United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. Robin Blakemore, the certified leader of this course, will train the adult leaders from our church to lead the small groups.

The design of the course recognizes that parents are the primary teachers of sexual attitudes and values for their children and youth. Therefore, if your son or daughter is to attend this seminar, we *require* your support through the participation of at least one parent in the sessions which are scheduled for parents. Where possible, we encourage the participation of both father and mother. In this seminar you will be given the opportunity to see what is being presented to the youth while also discussing the parent's role in sex education. Parents who have participated in this seminar felt that the course was well conducted, that it improved communication between parents and youth and they were thankful that it was offered.

Each youth is receiving a separate letter of invitation. Do not be surprised if your son or daughter does not want to participate. In the past, many youth said they did not want to participate but afterwards, *were glad that they did*. Talk to your son or daughter and encourage his or her participation. Please fill out the Registration form, which is enclosed, and return it along with the Registration fee of \$25, to the Church Office or The Well Kiosk by Sunday, March 7. This fee will cover the cost of the book (each youth receives one), supplies, a meal and refreshments. Please get your registration in as soon as possible to aid in planning. Friends are welcome to attend, but their parents need to understand participation is required. Please let me know if your son or daughter would like to invite a friend so that I can send them a letter.

Along with the trained Small Group leaders in our church, I look forward to this opportunity to provide your youth basic sex education in the Christian context. I strongly believe in this program and what it teaches. If you have any questions, or simply want to discuss this, please contact me.

God's Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darin". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Darin Miller

