



“We believe in an embodied theology. Spirit is at work not just in our minds and hearts, but in the workings of our bodies. Spirit dwells in the aches and pains and in our urges and delights. Spirit rests in our longings and our loneliness. Our bodies are all different, from their curves, to their rhythms, to the stories they tell, and damn it, they are all holy.” – Lydia Wylie-Kellermann, “Holy Hungers and Delights”

## STUDY GUIDE GEEZ 65: HEALING SEX

### ABOUT GEEZ

Geez magazine is a quarterly, nonprofit, ad-free, print magazine about social justice, art, and activism for people at the fringes of faith in Canada and the U.S.

Geez is committed to naming and raging against oppression while also offering the hope, beauty, and power alive in local communities doing their work.

### PART 1 REDEFINE

#### RECOMMENDED READING

**Page 14** – A Letter to the Ones They Call Fast by *Ristina Goodin*

**Page 20** – Redefining Fidelity: When Christian (Serial) Monogamy Failed Me by *Karen Limbert Rempel*

**Page 21** – Not Everyone is Having Sex by *Abigail Rampone*

### INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUE

We are taking on the taboo and goodness knows we need to. Sex is so often at the heart of Christian shame and violence. We come to this space knowing that so many of us carry deep wounds and trauma in our bodies from religious abuse, toxic theology, and cultural violence. We face into and acknowledge that – and yet this issue does not dwell there, but instead aims for healing, empowerment, and delight. What healing do our spirits and bodies need? How can we lean into pleasure and joy? What liberation can be found in subverting tradition – or reclaiming it?

Single issues available.  
[geezmagazine.org/store](http://geezmagazine.org/store).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was sex taught in your own home, culture, or religious tradition? What pieces of that do you continue to carry with you? What do you wish had been said?
2. What are the gifts of bringing conversations around sex into public spaces (like this magazine or a study group)? And what are the gifts of privacy and boundaries?

### ACTIVITY

1. Meditate on Bobbi Taylor’s question “What in this moment do you love about yourself and take pleasure in? What are your sacred sweet spots?”
2. Journal about what barriers or trauma or pain lives in you around sex.

### PART 2 RECREATE

#### RECOMMENDED READING

**Page 24** – A Lusty Slimy Embrace by *Mac Svolos*

**Page 30** – The Soft Animal of This Body by *Public Universal Friend*

**Page 32** – The Danger of Desire by *Cindy Wang Brandt*

**Page 34** – 10 Ways to Queer Sex Ed by *Tory Sparks*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we create spaces in our own religious and spiritual communities that offer healing, care, or restorative justice?
2. What have you learned from queer theology?
3. Mac Svolos, Cindy Wang Brandt, and the Public Universal Friend describe changes in their sexual lives – doing things that they never thought they’d do. Do you relate to that experience? How have you navigated the experience of your sex life changing over time?

### ACTIVITY

1. Take one suggestion from Queering Sex Ed and embody it in your life.
2. Read Mary Oliver’s poem “Wild Geese,” aloud or in your head. Let it wash over you. Notice what comes up.

## PART 3 REMEMBER

### RECOMMENDED READING

**Page 39** – Got Your Back: A Sung Prayer with and to Trans Bodies by *Kerr Mesner*

**Page 43** – Sexuality Like a Boulder: A Testament to William Stringfellow by *Bill Wylie-Kellermann*

**Page 48** – The Barefoot Nun by *Cassidy Klein*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you turn to as ancestors around sex, spirituality, eroticism, and justice?
2. William Stringfellow, a (mostly) closeted gay Christian man, insisted that the “the prominence of the sexual identity of a person was highly overrated.” He cautioned against sex becoming an idol. What do you make of this? Are there ways that you see sex showing up as an idol in your own life? Do you agree with Stringfellow?

### ACTIVITY

1. Write a letter to someone who has died who was instrumental in your understanding of sex (whether positive or negative).
2. Listen to “Got Your Back” on Geez Out Loud (find on [geezmagazine.org](http://geezmagazine.org), Spotify, Sound Cloud, or where ever you get your podcasts.)

## PART 4 RELEASE

### RECOMMENDED READING

**Page 12** – I Like It When You’re Loud: Mating Choruses, Erotic Voice, and Embodied Listening by *Jami Reimer*

**Page 19** – Follow the Wild Fecundity by *James Snowcarp*

**Page 49** – La Grande Mort by *Kateri Boucher*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we meet the divine in sex?
2. Jami Reimer writes about the phenomenon of “choral blend,” where voices singing together start to blend into one another. And Kateri Boucher writes about the moments that “blur the lines, however briefly, between ourselves and what surrounds us.” Where do you experience this feeling? How might it relate to your experiences of sex or death?

### ACTIVITY

1. Go outside and look for signs of sex in nature.
2. Invite friends over for a home-cooked meal. Share stories about sex or death or wild creatures.