

Resolution Affirming and Supporting Transgender and Nonbinary Individuals

WHEREAS, we believe that “because we are radically freed in Christ, we are called in that freedom to love and serve our neighbor as Christ loved and served us (Galatians 5:1, 13)” (ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, p. 4); and

WHEREAS Apostle Paul writes, “There is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).” We are assured that God loves us regardless of and especially in our uniqueness. And,

WHEREAS, the Oregon Equality Act, enacted in 2007, protects lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment in state, municipal and private workplaces, in public school education, foster parenting, state institutions, jury service, housing and financial transactions, and in public accommodations (meaning places open to the public such as businesses that sell goods or services, recreational facilities and providers of medical services) [Oregon Revised Statute 659A.006]; and

WHEREAS Federal Executive order 14168 on January 20th, 2025, declares that there are only two sexes in opposition to medical evidence and codified law both federally and in Oregon; and

WHEREAS Anti-transgender legislation has been on the rise nationally with 674 bills put forward in 2024 with 50 passing, and 830 bills put forward in 2025 with 48 passing so far as of April 4, 2025; and

WHEREAS Per the Oregon Synod Constitution Chapter 6, Statement of Purpose, “[we] serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and committing itself to their needs. [Oregon Synod Constitution †S6.02.c]”

Therefore be it RESOLVED that the Oregon Synod assembly reaffirm its commitment to protect the civil rights of all people, including transgender and nonbinary individuals, and continue to stand in opposition to any and all attempts to legalize discrimination done in the name of religious freedom, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Oregon Synod Bishop's Office will share educational resources with its congregations and ministry sites so they are better prepared to support transgender and nonbinary individuals, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Oregon Synod Bishop's Office will have man, woman, and nonbinary as minimum gender options when it is needed for forms, and encourage congregations and ministries to do likewise, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Oregon Synod Bishop's Office, when reserving spaces for synodical conferences and events, will strive to pick venues that include public bathrooms that are all gender or gender neutral and encourage congregations and ministries to do the same.

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