A Resolution to Advocate for Gender-Affirming Health Care

A Resolution of Witness

Resolution is put forward by delegates of the MN Conference, UCC
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SUMMARY
This resolution calls for support of gender-affirming care through the creation of gender-affirming healthcare champions in congregations as well as educational advocacy and financial support.

BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL, AND ETHICAL RATIONALE
Trans, two-spirit, non-binary, gender fluid, and all gender expansive individuals are beloved and made in the image of the Divine. The creation story in Genesis, Chapter 1, depicts God creating in binary pairs of light and dark, day and night . . . etc. And we understand God to have created all the shades and colors between light and dark, and all gradations of dawn, dusk, twilight, as well as the places where the land and sea meet . . . etc., even though every gradation is not specifically named in the telling of the story. Likewise, God created man and woman not to the exclusion of others, but as examples of many on a spectrum.

God also poured Godself out to become embodied in the human form of Jesus (John 1:14; Philippians 2). This act of incarnation blesses all bodies with divinity. We are a body of Christ made of many members (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Christ is transcendent in the world in a palpable, unique, creative way through the incarnation. The Spirit is embodied in our trans siblings and selves.

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS The 24th General Synod in 2003 passed the following resolution, "Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender People within the United Church of Christ and Supporting their Civil and Human Rights"

WHEREAS The 30th General Synod in 2015 passed the following resolution "Reaffirming Our Commitment to Full Equality For Persons of Any Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity of Gender Expression"

WHEREAS the 33rd General Synod in 2021 passed the following resolution "A Commitment To Gender Safety and Equity in Ministry Settings"

WHEREAS gender-affirming care has been demonstrated to improve quality of life, improve health outcomes and reduce instances of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts,

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services have barred hospitals from performing gender-affirming care through statements, regulations, and funding cuts,

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rescinded Directive 1341(4) on March 17, 2025, thereby eliminating access to cross-sex hormone therapy, gender-affirming prosthetics, and other gender-affirming care for transgender and intersex Veterans, except under limited grandfathered conditions;

WHEREAS the 10th General Synod in 1975 passed the following resolution: "All Persons Are Entitled to Full Civil Liberties and Equal Protection Under the Law."

WHEREAS the 29th General Synod in 2013 passed the following resolution: "To Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to Our Veterans."

WHEREAS some Minnesota healthcare providers are no longer offering *or are limiting the scope of their* gender-affirming care despite Minnesota ensuring that the state is a Trans Refuge,

WHEREAS the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Conference,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that congregations of the Minnesota Conference shall name congregants to act as gender-affirming healthcare champions to organize their communities through educational opportunities, letter-writing, boycott, and advocacy campaigns, and to meet regularly with each other to support and coordinate in the work,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations, ministers, chaplains, schools, retirement homes, and outdoor ministry participants of the Minnesota Conference shall combat misinformation about gender-affirming care through their teaching, preaching, extravagant welcome, and outreach,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations of the Minnesota Conference may make financial contributions to legal aid, mental health support, and other financial aid groups to support patients seeking gender-affirming care as an annual tithe or reparatory act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations, pastors and chaplains seek to provide pastoral care and advocacy for members of their congregation, ministry setting and/or their community who have lost access to gender affirming care or are at risk of losing that life saving care, including military veterans and active duty military.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ through Conference Staff, Authorized Ministers and Ministry Settings call upon the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to:

Immediately reinstate and expand Directive 1341(4) or its equivalent, ensuring full access to gender-affirming healthcare services, including hormone therapy, mental health support, and surgical options;

Collaborate with Congress to codify protections for transgender Veterans' healthcare into federal law, ensuring long-term stability and equity in VA services.

FUNDING
Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION
Members of the United Church of Christ are requested to be the primary implementers of this resolution.

Resources

Althaus-Reid, M., *The Queer God*. Routledge, 2003
Hartke, Austen. *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.
Herzer, Linda. *The Bible and the Transgender Experience: How Scripture Supports Gender Variance*. Pilgrim Press, 2016.
Himschoot, Malcolm. *Reading Secrets: A Queer Inheritance of Life & Scripture*. Catalyst Press, 2025.
Lau, Jacob and Cameron Patridge, *Out of the Ordinary: A Life of Gender and Spiritual Transitions*. Fordham University Press, 2016.
Mollenkott, Virginia Ramey. *Omnigender: A Trans-Religious Approach*. Pilgrim Press, 2001.
Sabia-Tanis, Justin. *Trans-Gender: Theology, Ministry, and Communities of Faith*. Wipf & Stock, 2017.
Soughers, Tara. *Beyond a Binary God: A Theology of Trans* Allies*. Church Publishing, 2018.
Weekley, David. *Retreating Forward: A Spiritual Practice with Transgender Persons*. Resource Publications, 2017.
Voelkel, R., *Carnal Knowledge of God.* Fortress Press. 2017
Yeshaye Brumberg-Kraus, M. *The(y)ology*. Punctum books. 10.53288/0385.1.00, 2023

HHS press release (content warning of inaccurate language) https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-acts-bar-hospitals-performing-sex-rejecting-procedures-children.html

2022 article on importance of gender affirming care
https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9341318/

Human rights campaign information
https://www.hrc.org/resources/get-the-facts-on-gwender-affirming-care

Article on children's of Minnesota pausing gender affirming care in Mn
https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/02/03/childrens-minnesota-will-pause-some-pediatric-gender-health-care-due-to-federal-government

Minnesota as trans refuge
https://www.house.mn.gov/NewLaws/story/2023/5541

MN Conference statement of being ONA
https://www.uccmn.org/programs-support/prophetic-justice/

Countering Project 2025 with Love: A UCC Response
https://www.ucc.org/countering-project-2025-with-love/

VA Related Resources:
https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-to-phase-out-treatment-for-gender-dysphoria/
https://www.npr.org/2025/03/14/nx-s1-5328733/va-transgender-veterans-memo
https://equality.house.gov/vha-directive-1341-4
https://www.ucc.org/veterans_day/
https://www.ucc.org/veterans_day_understanding_moral_injury/
https://www.ucc.org/commentary_further_into_moral_injury_06082016/