

RESOLUTION

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RESOLUTION ON TRANS YOUTH AND FAMILIES

FROM: Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Moore

WHEREAS we believe all persons, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and we affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God (*BOD*, ¶161.G); and

WHEREAS we seek for every individual opportunities and freedom to practice ethical self-determination and we understand our gender diversity to be a gift from God, intended to add to the rich variety of human experience and perspective (*BOD*, ¶161.F); and

WHEREAS health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being and healthcare is a basic human right to which all persons should have equal access and that the church has an obligation to see that all persons have access to needed medical care and therapy (*BOD*, ¶¶161.O, 161.V); and

WHEREAS we believe the physician-patient relationship is a sacred trust and should not be compromised or interfered with and that the consensus of the medical community, guided by established bioethical parameters, should be entrusted and empowered to determine what constitutes individualized best-practice, evidence-based care for patients who are guaranteed patient autonomy and informed consent (*BOR* 3201 and *BOD* ¶162.N); and

WHEREAS we believe the rights and privileges a society grants to or withholds from its people definitively communicate to persons and groups of persons their value in that society and discriminatory and oppressive policies have been used historically to seek the marginalization and eventual erasure of entire groups of persons (*BOD* ¶162); and

WHEREAS we support social climates in which communities are maintained and strengthened for the sake of all persons and their growth and are committed to work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened, providing the potential for nurturing human beings into the fullness of their humanity (*BOD* ¶¶161, 162);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we oppose the criminalization of individualized best-practice, evidence-based, life-giving care for trans youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our churches in the North Texas Conference will be places of sanctuary for trans children, youth, adults, and their families where they may find physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual safety and support; know respect, affirmation and dignity; and experience the abiding love of God; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, while we acknowledge the obligation our clergy have as mandatory reporters (¶341.5), we do not, because of our convictions of faith, consider gender-affirming care child abuse and thus will not report it as such.

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