

NORTH TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON TRANS YOUTH AND FAMILIES

WHEREAS we believe all persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, 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, ¶161.2.F); 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, ¶161.2.E); and

WHEREAS we support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to medical care, we deplore acts of violence against groups or persons based on gender, social orientation, or gender identity, and our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principals of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and inalienable rights (BOD, ¶162.3); and

WHEREAS health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being and healthcare is a basic human right (BOD, ¶162.3.V).

WHEREAS all major national and state medical groups, including the American and Texas Medical Associations, support age-appropriate, individualized care, also known as gender-affirming care, for minors experiencing gender dysphoria; and

WHEREAS, according to recent studies by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate of suicide attempts among transgender youth is three times higher than among their cisgender counterparts and some 40% of transgender children who can't get gender-affirming care they need attempt suicide, and one in four of them die by suicide; and

WHEREAS we believe that the church has an obligation to see that all persons have access to needed pastoral and medical care and therapy in those circumstances that lead to loss of self-worth and/or suicidal despair (BOD, ¶161.2.N); and

WHEREAS on May 13 the Texas Supreme Court struck down a statewide injunction halting child abuse investigations into the parents of transgender youth and on May 19 the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services said it would resume investigations into all allegations of abuse despite the fact that current state law does not explicitly define gender-affirming care as child abuse;

THEREFORE, be it now resolved that, our churches in the North Texas Conference will be safe sanctuaries for trans children, youth, and their families and, further, while we

acknowledge the obligation our clergy have as mandatory reporters, 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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