

The Forum | Transgender & Nonbinary Inclusion

Sunday, May 21

OPENING WORDS: OUR COMMON LIFE IS ENRICHED (FROM UUA WORSHIP WEB)

We are grateful for the gift of our lives and the gift of other people in our lives.

Each of us is created with dignity and worth.

We are called to love one another and
to do nothing to others that we would find hateful to ourselves.

We honor the many ways that people live and love.

Our common life is enriched when queer, transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay
people can come out—sharing the gifts of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

True justice flourishes when all people can live and flourish.

We suffer when LGBTQ people are oppressed, excluded, or shamed
by religious people who overlook the fundamental call to love one another.

Love does not exclude. We are all worthy.

May we work to build a world where all people are celebrated and loved.

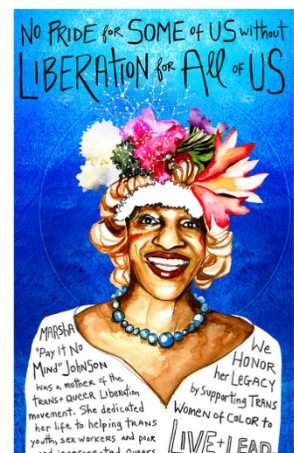
We celebrate sexual and gender diversity as a blessing that enriches us all.

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

1. We use “I” statements and speak from our own experiences.
2. We share time and space equitably.
3. We lean in to discomfort and uncertainty. It's how we grow!
4. We give each other grace, knowing that the work of living our values is hard, and we will all mess up at some point.
5. We seek first to understand and assume good intent while also acknowledging impact – if something we say or do causes harm, we commit to working through it and doing better.

FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN: AN OPEN AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY CHURCH

- Call to Ministry
To affirm each person's dignity.
- FPL Vision Statements
To be an open and inclusive community that learns to trust and work with each other as we celebrate, grieve, grow, support, and serve together.
To be a source of hope and positive impact in our communities, our region and beyond by affirming the dignity of all peoples and caring for the living earth.
- FPL Mission Statement
To pursue social justice by learning, understanding how and where we can make a difference, and then acting.



Artwork by Micah Bazant

From Transitioning to Inclusion: “In a recent Human Rights Campaign survey of trans* and gender variant youth, only 8% of youth rated their church or place of worship as “very accepting,” with 22% rating their place of worship as “not at all accepting.” **53% of youth surveyed said they did not know whether their own place of worship was accepting of LGBT people.**¹”

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN??

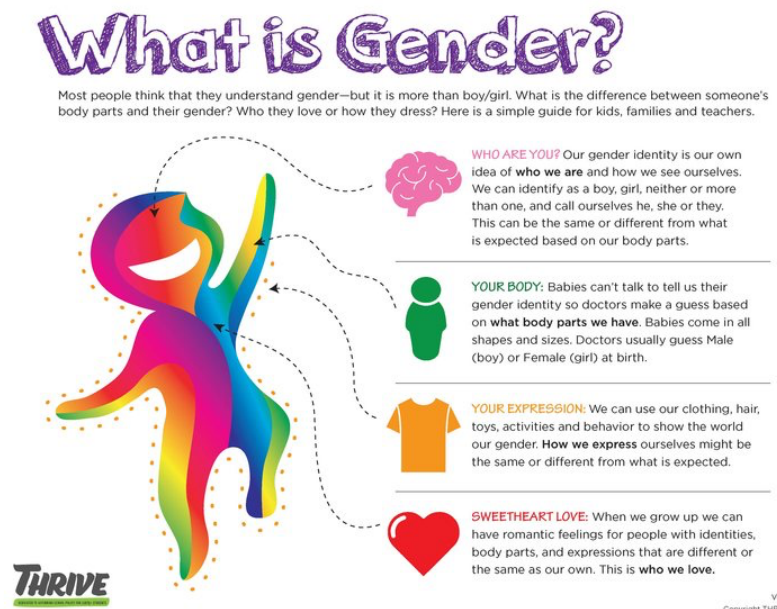
Definitions are drawn from the Human Rights Campaign, GLADD, and Planned Parenthood.

SEX / ASSIGNED SEX: Infants are assigned a sex at birth, “male” or “female,” based on the appearance of their external anatomy. However, the development of the human body is a complex process, and sex is not solely determined by anatomy, nor is it strictly binary. Around 2% of people are born with an intersex trait.

GENDER IDENTITY: One's internal, deeply held knowledge of their own gender. Everyone has a gender identity. For most people their gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth. For transgender people, their gender identity does not align with the sex they were assigned at birth. Note: gender identity is not visible to others. You cannot look at someone and "see" their gender identity.

GENDER EXPRESSION: External manifestations of gender, expressed through a person's name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, voice, and/or behavior. Societies classify these external cues as masculine and feminine, although what is considered masculine or feminine changes over time and varies by culture.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: Describes an individual's enduring physical, emotional, romantic and/or spiritual attraction to another person. Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same.



¹ Human Rights Campaign and Gender Spectrum, Supporting and Caring for Our Gender-Expansive Youth: Lessons from the Human Rights Campaign's Youth Survey. June 2012.

GENDER BINARY: The notion that there exist only two genders, each solidly fixed, biologically based and attached to various expectations for behavior, appearance, and feelings. The binary gender system, while predominant in most cultures, is not the only model of gender that exists; more nuanced, non-binary understandings of gender have existed throughout history and across cultures.

GENDER SPECTRUM: Recognition of gender as a complex aspect of self, influenced by a person's sex, gender expression and gender identity. Each of these dimensions can be represented as a spectrum, rather than binary. The interaction of these three aspects of one's authentic self leads to an infinite set of possibilities in how people can understand and express their own gender, and how others experience it as well.



*Scan the QR code to explore a map of some of the many gender-diverse cultures that exist worldwide.
(Source: PBS Independent Lens)*

CISGENDER (adj.): Cisgender — or cis — is the term used to describe individuals whose gender identity or expression aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.

TRANSGENDER (adj.): Transgender — or trans — is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

Cisgender and transgender have their origins in Latin-derived prefixes of "cis" and "trans" — cis, meaning "on this side of" and trans, meaning "across from" or "on the other side of."

NONBINARY (adj.): A term used by people who experience their gender identity and/or gender expression as falling outside the binary gender categories of "man" and "woman." Nonbinary is an umbrella term that encompasses many different ways to understand one's gender. Related Terms: Agender, Genderfluid, Genderqueer

QUEER (adj.): An umbrella term that describes sexual and gender identities other than straight and cisgender. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people may all identify with the word queer. Queer is sometimes used to express that sexuality and gender can be complicated, change over time, and might not fit neatly into either/or identities, like male or female, gay or straight.

The word "queer" has history to it that's hurtful — "queer" used to be (and sometimes still is) used to put down or disrespect LGBT people. But more and more, people use the word with pride to identify themselves. So don't call someone "queer" unless you know they're cool with it. The best thing to do is ask what labels people prefer.

INTERSEX: Intersex refers to someone with one or more innate sex characteristics, including genitals, internal reproductive organs, and chromosomes, that fall outside of traditional conceptions of male or female bodies. Those variations are also sometimes referred to as "Differences of Sex Development."

TRANSITION: The processes by which some people strive to more closely align their internal knowledge of gender with its outward manifestations. Some people socially transition, whereby they might begin dressing, using names and pronouns and/or be socially recognized as the “other” gender. Others undergo physical transitions in which they modify their bodies through gender affirming care.