



**Presbytery of Utah**  
 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
 699 E. South Temple  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84102

*The Presbytery of Utah will provide leadership and resources resulting in healthy and growing congregations.*

May 26, 2022

The Presbytery of Utah, who represents 20+ Presbyterian [PC(USA)] congregations here in Utah, passed at their last stated business meeting a statement in response to Utah House Bill 11 – where transgender youth are excluded from High School sports.

The reality of our congregations is, that we live, work and pray with people who are or have transgender family members, friends or colleagues. Affirming the God-created beauty and worthiness of every transgender person, the Presbytery passed, without opposition, the statement below on Transgender Equality.

Further, those present at the meeting who work closely with children and youth in the congregations expressed great gratitude that the Presbytery would show solidarity and acceptance to transgender people among us.

With this statement we long to give hope and home to people who feel excluded or ostracized by other faith communities. We are open and welcoming all who seek a place of love and acceptance.

**Presbytery of Utah Statement on Transgender Equality**

Utah House Bill 11 (HB11) goes into effect in July 2022, despite initially being vetoed by Utah Governor Spencer Cox. HB11 prohibits transgender athletes in the state of Utah from participating in girls’ high school sports. Although there are currently only four transgender athletes across the state of Utah who are participating in girls’ athletics, the state legislature felt the need to enact such a bill and prohibit their future participation.

As the Presbytery of Utah, we strongly disagree with this law, and we fully support all transgender people, including trans youth and trans athletes.

Laws such as HB11 are being enacted in a number of states around the nation. It is clear such laws have devastating impacts on transgender people, particularly trans youth. Trans youth often suffer extreme discrimination in their schools, sometimes from their families. This results in a variety of mental health challenges for trans youth, including increased suicide.

We believe and affirm the God-created beauty and worthiness of every transgender person. Transgender youth, like all youth, gain benefits from participating in school athletics: leadership opportunities, better physical and mental health outcomes, self-confidence, teamwork, and most of all, fun. Trans youth should not be prevented from participating in school athletics because of who they are. As the Presbytery of Utah, we will continue to work to repeal such laws and affirm the full humanity of transgender youth and adults, reminding our community that the love of God is for everyone, and Jesus calls us to continually share this message with the world.

**Presbytery of Utah Office**  
 699 E. South Temple  
 Suite 305  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84102-1185

Office – 801.539.8446  
 Fax – 801.539.6981

**Executive Presbyter**  
 Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior  
 ep@pbyutah.org

**Stated Clerk**  
 Elder Candice Sweet  
 sc@pbyutah.org

**Moderator of Presbytery**  
 Rev. Steve Aeschbacher  
 steveaas@hotmail.com

*Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior*  
 Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior  
 Executive Presbyter (she/her)

*Elder Candice Sweet*  
 Candice Sweet  
 Stated Clerk (she/her)

*Rev. Steve Aeschbacher*  
 Rev. Steve Aeschbacher  
 Moderator of Presbytery (he/him)