

P 14 END DEGRADING BEHAVIOR AGAINST FEMALE ATHLETES

WHEREAS Scripture teaches that, “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (*Genesis* 1:27) and, “I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know them full well.” (*Psalms* 139:14)

WHEREAS United Methodists commit themselves to, “guard[ing] against attitudes and traditions that would use this good gift [of gender diversity] to leave members of one sex more vulnerable in relationships than members of another.” (2016 *Discipline* ¶161.F)

WHEREAS members of one sex are left more vulnerable in relationships than members of another with regards to biological men participating in female sports,

WHEREAS studies indicate females have 37% - 68% of the muscle strength of males in general,

WHEREAS muscle strength has been considered a major factor on sport performance and other physical activities,

WHEREAS biological men who participate in female sports have been shown to have advantages in their respective sports, even after hormone treatments, because of their nature as biological males,

WHEREAS biological men who participate in female sports are eliminating opportunities for women to enjoy the benefits of fair competition, and diminish and demean their hard earned athletic accomplishments,

WHEREAS Pennsylvania has a clear example of this in the case of the University of Pennsylvania’s swimmer Lia Thomas who as a biological man holds an unfair advantage over competition in a women’s category, as evidenced by Thomas’ rankings that have bounced from #462 as a male to #1 as a female. Moreover, Thomas has been winning many events by incredible margins (including beating the second place participant in the 1650 yard freestyle competition by 38 seconds) due to upper body strength advantages that are typical of male biological sex.

WHEREAS incidents of women and girls being disproportionately affected by biological male athletes in sports are neither isolated nor waning, with situations arising in even high school sports as is the case with Terry Miller and Andraya Yearwood who placed 1st and 2nd the Connecticut indoor track championships.

WHEREAS policies which allow for biological male athletes to participate in female exclusive sports has the added detriment of restricting the speech of women who will not speak out on their own behalf for fear of being bullied or labeled as transphobic.

WHEREAS The United Methodist Church, “urge governments to enact policies that protect women against all forms of [...] discrimination in any sector of society.” This would include forcing biological females to compete against biological males, where they are at an intrinsic disadvantage, in gender exclusive sporting competitions. (2016 *Discipline* ¶162.F)

WHEREAS Bishop Moore-Koikoi has stated that we cannot direct, through legislation, UM Advocacy to do anything,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the clergy and laity of the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church call upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to immediately enact

legislation that would bar biological males from competing in female exclusive sports competitions and participating as members of female exclusive teams.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western PA Conference encourages United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania to petition for the enactment of this legislation by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and to produce a report of actions they have taken and the results of their work.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western PA Conference's Board of Church and Society, compile other action steps the Church and State could take to protect the wellbeing and prevent demeaning actions against women and girls by preventing biological male athletes from participating in PA gender exclusive sports and present these steps to the 2023 annual conference.

Richard Hoffman, Rev. Dawn Krishart

P 23 GUIDANCE ON LOCAL CHURCH REPORTING

WHEREAS Scripture states, “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in abundance of counselors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

WHEREAS, Scripture states, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created the.” (Genesis 1:27)

WHEREAS the General Council on Finance and Administration’s (GCFA) yearly statistical report required the administrative structure of the local church to state how many “non-binary” gender members there are in each charge (Year End Report Table 6c).

WHEREAS the local church shall format their records and the content of those records in accordance with the stipulations of the General Council of Finance and Administration (§§233.1, 233.1.a 2016 Book of Discipline),

WHEREAS “The church council and all other administrative and programmatic structures of the local church shall be amenable to the charge conference” (2016 Book of Discipline 15 §§ 244.1)

WHEREAS The charge conference, “shall promote awareness of and concurrence with the [...] Social Principles (§§ 160-166)” (2016 Book of Discipline § 247.20)

WHEREAS The Social Principles affirms only two genders, male and female (2016 Book of Discipline §§ 161.F; 162.F-G).

WHEREAS the Social Principles do not recognize “non-binary” as a gender.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference directs the chair of Conference Finance & Administration to send the General Secretary, Moses Kumar, (1 Music Circle North, Nashville TN 37203) of General Council on Finance & Administration this legislation which states Western Pennsylvania’s request that GCFA stop offering the option of ‘Non-Binary’ as a gender.

Brenda Russell, Renaye Hoffman, Rev. Roy Gearhart