

Church Participation of Individuals Who Identify as Transgender

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR LOCAL LEADERS

This document supplements the policy in *General Handbook*, 38.6.23, “Individuals Who Identify as Transgender.” Its purpose is to help local leaders counsel with individuals and their families about certain aspects of Church participation.

General Guidelines

In all cases, local leaders:

- Seek spiritual guidance.
- Treat individuals and their families with love and respect while teaching gospel truth.
- Consider the needs of the individual and other ward members.
- Ensure that the Church’s doctrine on gender is not undermined or misunderstood.
- Seek counsel. Bishops counsel with the stake president. Stake and mission presidents seek guidance from the Area Presidency.
- Involve the parents or guardians of minors.

Preferred Names and Pronouns

Official Church records reflect a member’s biological sex at birth.

The use of preferred names and pronouns should be a matter left between individuals and their family, friends, and Church members. Local leaders should not determine or prescribe how members address an individual.

If a member has a preferred name, it may be noted in the “Preferred Name” field on the membership record.

Gender-Specific Meetings and Activities

Individuals attend gender-specific meetings and activities that align with their biological sex at birth.

Any exception, which should be rare, must adhere to the “General Guidelines” listed above and be approved by the Area Presidency.

Overnight Activities

For overnight activities that are for a specific gender, individuals attend only the camps that align with their biological sex at birth. Examples of such activities include Young Women camps and Aaronic Priesthood quorum camps.

For overnight activities that are not for a specific gender, individuals who pursue surgical, medical, or social transition away from their biological sex at birth leave the activity at night. Youth are released to the care of a parent or legal guardian, who is responsible for arranging accommodations. Examples of activities that are not for a specific gender include young single adult conferences, For the Strength of Youth conferences, and youth conferences.

Callings and Assignments

Individuals who pursue surgical, medical, or social transition away from their biological sex at birth are not called or assigned to (1) fulfill gender-specific roles, (2) serve as teachers, or (3) work with children or youth. They may receive other callings or assignments that provide opportunities to progress and serve others.

Restrooms in Church Facilities

Restrooms should provide a private and safe environment. Care must be taken to respect the privacy and dignity of all individuals.

Individuals who pursue surgical, medical, or social transition away from their biological sex at birth should use a single-occupancy restroom when available.

If a single-occupancy restroom is not available, a local leader counsels with the individual (and the parents or guardians of a youth) to find a solution. Options include:

- Using a restroom that aligns with the individual’s biological sex at birth.
- Using a restroom that corresponds to the individual’s feeling of their inner sense of gender, with a trusted person ensuring that others are not using the restroom at the same time.