

More Light Presbyterians' Statement on the SCOTUS Ruling on Conversion Therapy.

We recognize God's image in all people — including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual persons—and proclaim them made as such purposefully by a God of abundance whose creativity is boundless and whose love is wider than our fears.

And so we, More Light Presbyterians, unequivocally oppose the decision by the Supreme Court to overturn the ban on conversion therapy. As the 222nd General Assembly affirmed, ["Christians are called to appreciate the diversity of all God's children" \(OVT-082\).](#)

Conversion therapy — in its many forms, whether under the guise of counseling, talk therapy, spiritual guidance, or "reparative" treatment — is abuse. Practices that seek to coerce people to change or deny their sexual orientation or gender identity have been firmly discredited. Decades of psychological and medical studies affirm that it causes psychological damage, physical distress, and relational harm.

The Supreme Court's decision places the power of the law behind what is fundamentally a sin and a denial of human dignity. It threatens vulnerable people — especially youth — with renewed discrimination, shame, and violence.

Worse, our experience as pastors and friends of queer folks who have endured conversion therapy has taught us that it separates them from God, causing a rift that takes a long time to repair when it does heal, and sometimes never does.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we reject entirely the misuse of Christianity to separate us from God and to justify hatred, exclusion, or violence against queer and trans people. Such blasphemy is not merely a distortion of the gospel — it is a betrayal of it. We grieve the harm done to many by conversion therapy practices — harm that is often lifelong and deeply traumatic.

Therefore, we call on:

1. Secular courts and lawmakers to protect robust legal and ethical prohibitions on conversion therapy, and to resist efforts to enshrine its legality under the cover of “religious practice.”

2. Faith communities and clergy, especially Christians, to oppose conversion therapy in all its forms, to offer pastoral care that affirms rather than coerces, and to testify against practices that wound and marginalize LGBTQIA+ people.

3. Congregations and presbyteries to educate, encourage theological reflection, and pursue accountability around issues of sexuality, gender, counseling ethics, and pastoral care — so that no person is ever deceived to think they must change who they are to be loved by God or by the church.

4. LGBTQIA+ people and allies to continue to raise their voices, share their stories of harm and healing, and advocate for policies and institutions that affirm dignity, safety, and flourishing.

Siblings, we invite you to hold fast to hope: the hope that the church can be a place of healing, belonging, and liberation; the hope that law and public policy can safeguard dignity rather than inflict coercion; and the hope that God’s grace is more abundant than any theology of shame.

