

Presbyterian Church USA Votes to Back Trans Procedures for Children Despite Bible's Position

The nation's largest Presbyterian denomination has officially declared its support for transgender medical interventions on minors, with one church leader making clear that "all individuals means exactly that" when it comes to children accessing life-altering gender procedures.

The Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) voted during its 227th General Assembly last week to support access to "all medically necessary, evidence-based gender-affirming healthcare" for every individual, regardless of age. The move places one of America's historic mainline Protestant churches squarely at odds with 27 states that have passed laws protecting minors from irreversible gender surgeries and hormone treatments.

The Cherokee Presbytery introduced the measure, which builds on the denomination's existing policies regarding gender identity and sexual orientation. While committee members removed the phrase "including minors" from the final text, Rev. Olivia Lane, moderator of the Gender and Sexuality Justice Committee, left no ambiguity about what the resolution means.

"All, without exception, without qualification, and without age limit," Lane explained.



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Lane said the committee stripped the explicit reference to children because of concerns the language would be "weaponized

to cause further harm to the very children it named.” The practical effect remains unchanged: the PCUSA now formally supports minors receiving transgender medical interventions.

The rationale supporting the Cherokee Presbytery’s overture cites approximately 1.6 million transgender individuals aged 13 and older in the United States. It claims that as of April 2024, roughly 113,900 trans youth between ages 13 and 17 live in the 24 states that have enacted protections against such procedures for children.

Perhaps most striking, the church’s rationale document explicitly advocates for “thousands of pre-teen youths who could benefit from hormone blockers to prevent these individuals from going through the ‘wrong’ puberty.” This assertion stands in direct contradiction to multiple passages in Scripture regarding God’s intentional design of male and female.

The PCUSA characterized state laws protecting children as banning “healthcare for minors,” adopting the language of transgender activists who frame experimental procedures as medically necessary treatment.

“Gender-affirming care is age-appropriate care that is medically necessary and evidence based for the well-being of many transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive people who experience symptoms of gender dysphoria or distress that result from having one’s gender identity not match their sex assigned at birth,” the rationale states.

Yet research tells a different story. Studies have shown that individuals who undergo sex-reassignment procedures experience higher rates of suicide, increased suicide attempts, and greater need for psychiatric inpatient care compared to those who maintain their biological sex.

The vote highlights a growing divide within American Christianity over how churches respond to cultural pressure on

gender ideology. While many evangelical and Catholic churches have held firm to biblical teaching on God's creation of humanity as male and female, several mainline Protestant denominations have moved steadily leftward on issues of sexuality and gender.

For faithful Christians watching their denominations abandon historic doctrine, the PCUSA's decision represents another painful departure from Scripture. The church that once produced towering theological figures now finds itself endorsing medical interventions that permanently alter the bodies of children struggling with confusion about their God-given sex.

State legislatures across the country have moved in recent years to protect minors from these procedures, recognizing that children cannot meaningfully consent to treatments that may leave them sterile and dependent on hormones for life. The PCUSA has chosen to stand against those protections.

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