

## SERVING EVERYONE

St. Mark Presbyterian Church is a champion of social justice and equal rights for all. If you are LGBTQIA, we welcome you.

### WEDDINGS

We honor and celebrate when two persons join themselves in a covenant relationship of marriage, without regard to their sexual or gender identity.

### MEMBERSHIP

We welcome all disciples of Jesus Christ into our membership and into leadership roles without regard to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

### BATHROOMS

Bathrooms are places where people attend to cosmetic, hygienic, biological, and personal needs. As such, it is important that our bathrooms be a place where people feel safe and comfortable whatever their degree of modesty. Therefore, our bathrooms are appropriately marked as 'Women,' 'Men,' and 'All Gender,' and all are invited to use whichever restroom they choose.

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## THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

The Scriptures reflect ancient and evolving cultural assumptions regarding gender, sex, and marriage. We believe that our calling is to find faithful expressions of God's grace and love within still-evolving understandings of sexuality and gender. Our questions are less about what the Bible says regarding gender and more about how we can reflect the justice, dignity, and love of the gospel within changing understandings of sexuality and gender.



## OUR LANGUAGE

The language around sexuality and gender is growing increasingly complex. Our hope is that each of us will approach language with sensitivity and openness. One way to do that is to ask someone what their preferred and acceptable pronouns are.

**GRAMMAR ALERT!** It is helpful (and acceptable) to use they/them/their as pronouns for individuals who are not comfortable with she/her/hers or he/him/his. "They is okay!"



OPEN ARMS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN HEARTS.

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The ABCs  
of Inclusivity

## WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Sexual orientation and gender identity are very different. When it comes to the letters, you may be one, none or many.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Asexual** are terms that refer to sexual orientation or attraction.

**Biological sex** refers to a person's gender at birth, while **gender identity** refers to how one experiences community or presents oneself. It can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.

**Intersex** is a term that refers to biological sex.

**Transgender** refers to when one's assigned biological identity and gender identity are different.

**Cisgender** refers to one whose biological identity corresponds with their gender identity.

**Non-binary** refers to someone whose gender identity does not fall within either male or female definitions.

<b>L</b>	<b>IS FOR LESBIAN</b> Lesbian is a term that describes women whose sexual attraction is primarily or exclusively toward other women.
<b>G</b>	<b>IS FOR GAY</b> Gay is a term that describes men and women whose sexual attraction is primarily or exclusively toward their same sex.
<b>B</b>	<b>IS FOR BISEXUAL</b> Bisexual describes anyone whose sexual attraction is toward both men or women. However, the "bi" in "bisexual" excludes attraction toward non-binary persons, so a preferred term today would be something more expansive, like "pansexual."
<b>T</b>	<b>IS FOR TRANSGENDER</b> Transgender (not 'transgendered') is a term that describes someone's gender identity when it is different from the biological sex (chromosomes, organs and hormones) assigned at birth.
<b>Q</b>	<b>IS FOR QUEER</b> Queer was once a term of derision that many people in the LGBTQIA community have embraced as an all-encompassing term to describe persons who live outside of many cultural boxes.
<b>I</b>	<b>IS FOR INTERSEX</b> Intersex is a term individuals born with variations in sex characteristics - chromosomes, organs, hormones, or genitals - and so do not fit within the binary definitions of male or female.
<b>A</b>	<b>IS FOR ASEXUAL</b> Asexual is a term that describes someone who has no (or low) sexual attraction toward others. It does not preclude a desire for intimacy or romance.