

MAY EDUCATION SERIES SPONSORED BY THE TOUCHPOINT COMMITTEE AT CALDWELL

Each week, we will watch 2-3 short videos together, then have a discussion with a leader in this subject matter. All of the videos can be found at <https://rmnetwork.org/trans-forming-church-video-curriculum/>. The Zoom link is the same for all 4 sessions (see below).

May 3 at 2:00 PM

Videos 2 and 10 focusing on gender as a social construct and the science of gender

Leader: Rev. Debra J. Hopkins is the Founding Pastor of Essentials for Life Ministries, an online ministry, and the Founder & Executive Director of There's Still Hope, a trans-led non-profit organization that provides temporary shelter for homeless Transgender adults & victims of domestic violence in Mecklenburg County. Debra also spends time traveling around the country advocating for the underserved people of our LGBTQIA communities, facilitating workshops as an inspirational-motivational speaker & teacher, and participating in educational conferences and Town Hall discussions throughout the year. She is also a frequent speaker at colleges & universities in North Carolina. As an activist, Debra believes that words have POWER, and she believes we can all be a real voice for change through action, activism, and community involvement that will help put an end to the social and economic discrimination that is ever-present in this country.

May 10 at 2:00 PM

Videos 1, 3, and 5 focusing on the story of Adam and Eve, transforming Scripture, and the re-naming of people in the Bible

Leader: Liam M. Hooper, M.Div., is the founder of Ministries Beyond Welcome, which aims to affirm, honor, and celebrate the inherent worth, vitality and indomitable spirits of transgender/non-binary, gender non-conforming, and intersex persons and communities through education, community-building, organizing, and collaborative engagement, activism, and general support activities. Liam is a gender theorist, a theological activist, writer, podcaster, and a professional consultant, educator and trainer. To these services, he also brings over twenty years of experience and skills as a mental health counselor, program developer, and professional trainer. Liam is committed to intersectional change-making, addressing cissexism/sexism, racism and white supremacy, classism and other occupier-colonialism privileging systems through the lens of gender, transphobia and trans-hate. He is also committed to accompanying and working with individuals and groups/communities in the work of becoming more competent in the creation of gender/sexuality-diverse communities. Liam takes seriously the tasks of hearing and respecting the stories of others, of working for relational community-building as a path to measurable liberation, and striving for deeper authenticity, openness, and loving kindness.

May 17 at 2:00 PM

Videos 6, 7, and 9 focusing on the importance of pronouns, gender-restrictive cultures, and the history of trans and two-spirit people

Leader: Rev. Dawn Flynn is the part-time Pastor of New Life Metropolitan Community Church in Gastonia. She is also an Adjunct Curator of Entomology at the Schiele Museum in Gastonia. Dawn is a Trans activist who speaks at numerous events and universities, sharing her story and speaking against trans injustice. She is on the Board of Directors of Ministries Beyond Welcome and she has a published memoir, "God Does Love Me. My Trans Journey to Finding My True Self" available through Amazon.

May 24 at 2:00 PM

Videos 4 and 8 focusing on the gender identity spectrum, inclusive language, when/when not to share other people's stories, and how our gender shapes who we are

Dawn Flynn will lead this session and she will preach during worship!