

2023 FLY Convention® Gender Dysphoria Policy

Definitions:

Gender dysphoria is defined by the American Psychiatric Association as “a marked incongruence between one’s experienced/expressed gender and assigned gender.” Gender dysphoria, Gender Identity Disorder (GID), gender confusion, transsexual and transgender are viewed as synonymous terms for this policy, while recognizing that these terms may have different uses or nuances in other places. Gender dysphoria would include those teenagers that are transitioning through medical procedures and/or legal actions to adjust their gender assigned at birth; or have already transitioned through.

For purposes of this Policy, Assigned Gender means an individual’s physiological gender as it existed and assigned at the time of such individual’s birth, and Gender dysphoria shall include any self-perceived variation from that individual’s Assigned Gender.

Assigned Gender, gender assigned at birth, birth gender, and natal gender are also viewed as synonymous for this policy.

Biblical Observations:

The Bible states clearly that gender was part of God’s basic design for humans. Genesis 1:27 states that there were two created genders: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (ESV) Jesus also states that God created gender: “He [Jesus] answered, ‘Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female.’” (Matthew 19:4; ESV)

Psalm 139 states that God created individuals down to each “intricate” detail; we believe that includes assigned gender. “For you [God] formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.” (verses 13-16, ESV)

The FLY Convention® considers a rejection of assigned gender to be contrary to the Word of God based on the biblical basis stated above. However, we are not seeking to classify each individual struggling with feelings of gender dysphoria as having crossed into a sinful rejection of their assigned gender. Similarly, we recognize that this disorder can often manifest itself in sinful ways.



Policy:

Our priority at FLY is to do our best to ensure the safety and well-being, both spiritual and physical, of every student who attends FLY. This includes a recognition that the FLY Convention® exists to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all teenagers whatever the struggle or the sinful behavior. The ministry of the FLY Convention® extends to all activities that are involved in the events organized and operated by Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Federation. The priority at FLY for the well-being of every student requires that any behavior deemed disruptive by FLY personnel will result in disciplinary action such as, but not limited to, sending disruptive attendees home at their own expense.

Keeping with the above Biblical understanding, FLY has adopted the following:

1. The policy of FLY is that students register by their assigned gender.
2. The policy of FLY is that students who are currently acting on feelings and/or thoughts of gender dysphoria must be housed with a parent or guardian.
3. The policy of FLY is that students will attend sessions that are gender neutral or designated for their assigned gender.
4. The policy of FLY is that the clothing guidelines apply to all attendees. Attendees will have attire consistent with their assigned gender at all times while in attendance at the FLY Convention®.
5. The policy of FLY is that all attendees use restrooms designated for their assigned gender, single person restrooms marked as gender neutral, or the restroom in their designated dorm room.
6. The policy of FLY is to consider all medical and psychological diagnoses and disclosures to be private and confidential and will hold them in confidence, except in the case of a medical emergency.
7. Any scenario involving a gender dysphoric individual not specifically covered by the policy will be considered and handled by the FLY Committee with the advice of the National Youth Director.
8. The policy of FLY is to provide housing for adults that have transitioned their gender in a single occupancy room within the building designated for adult housing or with the immediate family members of the individual.

