

GENDER IDENTITY
Board of General Superintendents
Manual 903.6 (new paragraph)

RESOLVED that a new paragraph be added to the *Manual* as follows:

903.6. In the story of God the formation of humankind culminated in the creation of male and female – part of a divine design that God indelibly engraved upon the world.

God gives our bodies to us for spiritual and relational purposes, as well as physical ones. There are instances, though rare, where people are born with ambiguous genital formation. However, biologically the vast majority of people are born male or female.

In addition to such biological realities, we recognize the increasingly complex nature of gender differentiation. Although gendered roles, behaviors and temperaments are often the product of social and cultural construction, we believe that a person’s birth gender is primary and formative.

FURTHER RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraphs 903.6-903.18 be renumbered accordingly.

REASONS:

1. The issue of gender identity is a current public discussion driven by political agendas, psychological analyses, opinion polls, media focus, and cultural mores. The Church of the Nazarene seeks to refocus this discussion based on biblical teachings and Christian tradition.
2. The Church of the Nazarene needs a statement about gender identity in the *Manual* to help guide biblical and doctrinal conversations, life style choices, and ministry opportunities to those affected by this reality.
3. The church must enter the public discussion regarding gender identity, gender expression, the spectrum of transsexualism, gender assignment, gender dysphoria, and other related topics to offer compassion, ministry, and biblical truth.
4. The Church of the Nazarene chooses to begin this discussion by affirming Genesis 1:27, i.e., that God created humanity in the divine image, both male and female, and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, i.e., that human bodies are to be temples of the Holy Spirit which honor God.
5. The statement affirms that gender identity reflects God’s divine plan for humanity as well as divine sovereignty in determining gender assignment.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

- 6. The statement reminds that gender expression has a spiritual and relationship component and is not simply a physical, psychological, emotional, or personal matter.