

Voices of Witness: Out of the Box

Film Guide for Participants

“Out of the Box” is a groundbreaking documentary giving voice to the witness of transgender people of faith, courageously sharing their stories of hope, healing and wholeness.



Bishop Gene Robinson:

“I believe that God is calling us into this conversation now. It’s an opportunity to get to understand another part of God’s never-ending diversity and another way to live into our baptismal calling to love all God’s children.”



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Background

Voices of Witness: Out of the Box is a documentary from Integrity USA, directed by the late Louise Brooks. It was designed to educate church leaders on transgender issues as we approached decisions about transgender non-discrimination canons at the 2012 General Convention. The video was released on YouTube and then mailed to every bishop and deputy before the convention.

At convention, both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies voted overwhelmingly to support non-discrimination for transgender people in the ministries of the church, in the ordination process as well as in lay ministries. Integrity believes that this film helped to inform and persuade people as they considered their vote.

This video is also available on YouTube at www.YouTube.com/integriTV.

The definitions and quotes below are written out for your convenience, so you can focus on the film without taking notes.

Definitions

- **Gender Identity:** One's inner sense of his or her own gender, of being male, female or something in-between.
- **Gender Expression:** The manner in which a person expresses his or her gender, through clothing, accessories, activities, grooming, interests.
- **Transgender:** Someone who does not conform or identify with the gender expectations associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Transwoman:** Someone assigned male at birth, but who lives and/or identifies as a woman.
- **Transman:** Someone assigned female at birth, but who lives and/or identifies as a man.

Traditional Gender Model

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|------------|--------------------|----------|
| Boy | Biological Sex | Girl |
| Male | Gender Identity | Female |
| Masculine | Gender Expression | Feminine |
| Date Women | Sexual Orientation | Date Men |

Notable Quotes

- "The strain of standing in front of people and talking about truth, while not living my own truth, was slowly destroying me." – Rev. Carla Robinson
- "My strategy was that we were going to talk about this until people got bored with it." – Rev. Harold Clinehens
- "When I finally decided to claim my identity and live into it through transition, it felt like Christmas morning – I mean really, literally, felt like Christmas morning – for months!" – Rev. Cameron Partridge
- "I need transgender people in the church, because for me to live into the fullness of God's reign compels me to be in deep relationship with those that are radically different than I." – Bishop Ian Douglas