

TRANS-GLOSSARY



MCC Trans-Glossary

This list of terms is provided for a better understanding of words/ideas associated with the Transgender community at large. Please note, this list has been compiled from various sources and is always in development. This list is provided with the intention of offering a general understanding of terms you may encounter while working with or living in transgender and gender-variant community.

Coming Out: The act of revealing a truth about oneself to another person.

FTM: Acronym for the phrase “female to male”.

Gender: The set of socially constructed norms (behavior, appearance, etc.) associated with a bodily sex (i.e. boy/man=male or girl/woman=female). Culturally, gender assignment is expected to be congruent with genitalia (i.e. penis = boy/man, vagina = girl/woman).

Gender Identity: A sense of one’s own male-ness, female-ness or other-gendered-ness.

Gender Role: The cultural expectation of how a person of a perceived gender identity will behave, i.e. perceived female people are expected to be feminine and perceived male people are expected to be masculine. These perceptions vary from one culture to another and are based on the external presentation of an individual.

Gender-Variant: Describes the state of identifying as a variant gender from that which is expected of them or assigned at birth. May include people who identify as female, male, genderqueer, queer, omnigender, non-gender, or otherwise.

MTF: Acronym for the phrase “male to female”.

Sex (Also “Bodily Sex”): The classification of people as male or female. The term most often used to communicate whether someone is male or female. This description is based on assessments of an infant’s visible genitalia and assigns a “gender” at or soon after birth.

Male Sex: Having a penis, scrotum and testes.

Female Sex: Having a vagina, clitoris, uterus, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

Intersex: 1) Describing a person whose biological sex is ambiguous within the expectations of male sex and female sex. 2) A person born with ambiguous bodily sex and hormonal characteristics. Characteristics may exhibit a weight toward the male sex or female sex, as determined by observation and/or medical examination.

Sexuality: Sexual and/or emotive expression of intimate attraction; attraction may be towards individuals of the same or differing sex, or the same or differing gender. e.g. Lesbian or Gay (homosexual), bisexual, heterosexual, queer, trans-attracted etc **SO:** Acronym for “Significant Other”.

SOFFA: Acronym for “Significant Others, Family, Friends and Allies”.

TG: Abbreviation for Transgender

Trans: Abbreviation for transgender, transsexual, and transition.

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Transgender: 1) An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. The term may include but is not limited to: transsexuals, cross-dressers and other gender-variant people. Transgender people may identify as: Trans man or female-to-male (FTM), Trans woman or male-to- female (MTF), genderqueer, bi-gender androgynous or gender variant. Transgender people may or may not choose to alter their bodies hormonally and/or surgically. 2) an umbrella term used to include all people who identify as having a gender identity different from their assigned gender (also, gender-variant). This can include transsexual, intersex, cross-dressers, etc., depending on self-understandings of gender identity.

Transition: Refers to the journey made by transgender individual who choose to make some level of shift in their gender identity in a publicly visible way. Transition may include any level of medical intervention, and may be limited to performative gender (i.e. changing dress to better match perceived gender expectations).

Transman, Trans Man, TransMan: A person assigned female sex & gender at birth who identifies as a male person. Transman can be used as an inclusive term to include all transgender people who are predominantly male identified.

Transsexual (also, TRANSEXUAL): Refers to people who utilize medical means to alter bodily sex from the assigned sex at birth to desired sex-identity. This is an older term that originated in the medical and psychological communities. This is not an umbrella term and many transgender people do not identify as transsexual.

Transwoman, Trans Woman, TransWoman: A person assigned male sex & gender at birth who identifies as a female person. Transwoman can be used as an inclusive term to include all transgender people who are predominantly female identified.

About MCC Transgender Ministries

MCC Transgender Ministries began as an outgrowth of the Transgender Resource Team, formed in 2005 with ten members. In 2010, more than thirty-five people contribute to MCCTM resources through writing and editing.

MISSION:

MCC Transgender Ministries creates, develops and distributes resources to enhance local church and local community ministry to and with transgender people. We believe that MCC's core values of inclusion, social justice, spiritual transformation, and community are integral to healthy and holistic life. MCC's core values are in great need in transgender (and gender-variant) communities and work to broaden the perspectives of those who are not transgender or gender-variant.

VISION:

MCC Transgender Ministries hopes to enhance ministries of spirituality, social action and community in local communities through resources designed to facilitate inclusion, understanding and activism.

STAFF:

Melanie ("Mel") Martinez joined the staff of MCC in January 2003 as a regional executive assistant. As part of her ministry exploration, Mel requested and received permission to begin a volunteer team focused on transgender ministry and resources. Mel identifies as trans-identified or gender-variant. Mel is a graduate of Perkins School of Theology (MDiv.) and hopes to enter ordained ministry with MCC.

Angel Collie co-leads the MCC Transgender Ministries and worked on In Our Own Words: MCC's Archive and Oral History Project. Angel identifies as transgender and male. Angel is a Religious Studies major and Sexuality Studies minor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and work with the LGBTQ center on campus as a program assistant. Currently, Angel is working towards entry into Divinity School.



**MCC TRANSGENDER
MINISTRIES**

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