I'm sorry. I meant to write something up but I got hit with Covid yesterday afternoon and have basically been sleeping since then.

I wanted to write something like this, but better referenced and more clearly written:

"As a Christian Faith Leader, I believe it is imperative that we care for Transgender people with love and respect. Trans men are men, trans women are women. All of them are beloved by God and deserve love from their neighbors.

Even our Holy Scriptures make this clear: Phillip didn't bat an eye when baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch (a literal transgender person) and welcoming him into the family of God.

Even Jesus said some Eunuchs (trans people) were born that way, others were forced into at, and still others have done so for the glory of God.

Forcing Trans people to act as if they are not is both cruel, and for those of you who call yourselves Christian: Sinful."

## FYI in case it matters:

Had I been able to testify in person, I would've been wearing my clerical collar with a shirt over it that says, "Protect Trans kids"

If it's not too late to have this read, I would really appreciate it.

Thanks for your time, Rev. Lorin Darst (he/him) First English Lutheran Church, Columbus