



Transgender Student Support/Discussion Group 2019-2020 Sponsored by Counseling Services

About the participants

- The group is for enrolled Trinity students. A wide variety of students participate including trans men, trans women, transmasculine, transfeminine, nonbinary, agender, gender fluid, and students questioning their gender identity or expression.
- Some students initially feared they were “not trans enough” to participate. That has never been true. If you have any doubt about whether you are appropriate for the group, consult one of the co-facilitators

About the co-facilitators

- Dr. Richard Reams (he/him/his) is associate director of Counseling Services and trains mental health professionals to provide more highly informed and affirming services to gender-diverse clients. Contact him at rreams@trinity.edu.
- Dr. Amy Stone (they/them/theirs) is professor of sociology & anthropology and teaches the courses Sociology of Gender and Gender Transgressions. Contact them at astone@trinity.edu.
- The group began during fall semester of 2015 and has met each subsequent fall and spring semester.

About the gatherings

- This is a discussion/support group, not a psychotherapy group. Therefore, no student becomes a client of Counseling Services by virtue of participating, and no record of any meeting is kept other than attendance.
- We meet for 75 minutes every two weeks during fall and spring semester in the Gathering Room of Counseling Services. The day of the week each semester depends on the availability of the co-facilitators that semester.
- Last year six to eight students attended each gathering; about 12 participated at some time during the year.
- Students may attend whenever they wish. They may arrive and depart as their availability permits.
- Topics of discussion emerge from the participants. Some topics are requested during a previous gathering; some emerge from that day's gathering.
- Occasionally a guest joins us (e.g., a trans alum who updates us on their journey).
- When a student participates for the first time, each participant provides a synopsis of their gender journey thus far. The first-time participant has the opportunity to share a synopsis of their journey last.
- If you would like to receive an email notice about each gathering, email rreams@trinity.edu.

Expectations of participants

- Provide a respectful and supportive atmosphere where safety and trust abound.
- Protect the confidentiality of participants: What is said in the group stays in the group.
- Avoid “outing” participants to people beyond the group.

Exceptions to confidentiality

- If a participant discloses an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking that has been perpetrated by or experienced by the participant or any Trinity student or employee while a Trinity student or employee (regardless of the location), Texas law requires that Dr. Reams or Dr. Stone report all disclosed information about the incident to the university's Title IX coordinator.
 - The Title IX coordinator will offer information about support resources and complaint resolution options to the victimized individual. The report to the Title IX coordinator does not initiate the complaint process, and the victimized individual will be in control over whether and how to engage with the Title IX coordinator.
 - There are three confidential sources of support on campus for a student: a Counseling Services counselor (when the student is a client), a Health Services medical provider, and the University Chaplain. These individuals are required to report the type of incident only, and no other information.
- If a group participant discloses intent to injure themselves or another person, Dr. Reams or Dr. Stone will respond to support the safety of anyone at risk of injury or death.