

A Liturgy of Re-Naming for Transgender Persons

One: Dear friends, as people of faith, we know that God continues to shape and mold us in our growth, inviting us to claim for ourselves the people who God created us to be. Each new day is an opportunity to live more fully the promise of who we are.

Throughout history, individuals, as they have claimed their unique personhood more fully, have been given new names, a testimony of their faithfulness.

All: Abram was renamed Abraham

One: Sarai was renamed Sarah.

All: Simon was renamed Peter.

One: Saul was renamed Paul.

All: We know that renaming can be an important way to reflect our new nature found in Christ.

One: Today a child of God comes forward in an important renaming. It has not been an easy journey, yet we know that the road of faith is not an easy one. We have been asked to witness this renaming and become companions for the journey.

My friend, throughout your life you have been known as _____ (former name). Today you stand before us, your life a testimony to the God who welcomes us as his children and makes all things new. What name do you choose for yourself?

Person being renamed: I am _____ (new name).

One: _____ (new name), you are God's beloved child. *(The minister anoints the person's forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross).* Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy uphold you by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

My friends, I present to you _____ (new name).

All: _____ (new name), we rejoice with you for all that God has done for you, and for all that has yet to be revealed. We will walk with you, as you walk with us. May the life and ministry we share always reflect the love of God, which calls us all to wholeness. Amen.

Adapted from "A Liturgy of Re-Naming for Transgender Persons" by Rev. Karen Oliveto, Shaping Sanctuary: Proclaiming God's Grace in an Inclusive Church, ed. Kelly Turney, 2000.