



General Commission on the Status and Role of Women  
Monitor Sheet – Guidelines and Definitions

Thank you for participating in the ministry of monitoring for your annual conference. These guidelines and definitions provide reference for terminology and understanding of how to complete the observer sheets.

### Abbreviations and Definitions

**Gender** (Definitions cited from [Ontario Human Rights Commission](#))

- F – Female – a person who identifies as female.
- M – Male – a person who identifies as male.
- NB – Non-binary – a person who identifies as non-binary.

When noting gender, if someone's gender expression is male or female and they don't state their identity, please note their identity based on their expression.

*Gender identity* is a person's **internal** and individual experience of gender. It is a person's sense of being a woman, a man, both, neither, or anywhere along the gender spectrum. A person's gender identity may be the same as or different from their birth-assigned sex. In short, it is how someone sees and defines themselves regardless of how the outside world perceives them.

*Gender expression* is how a person **publicly expresses** or presents their gender. This can include behavior and outward appearance such as dress, hair, make-up, body language, and voice. A person's chosen name and pronoun are also common ways of expressing gender. Others perceive a person's gender through these attributes.

**Race/Ethnicity** (Definitions cited from [Very Well Mind](#))

- A – Asian. The category 'Asian' includes all individuals who identify with one or more nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.
- B – Black. The category 'Black' includes all individuals who identify with one or more nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the Black racial groups.
- H/L – Hispanic/Latinx. The U.S. Census Bureau asks if people are of Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish descent. Those who describe themselves as fitting into this category may be of any race. The Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish categories refer to people who identify with



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any of the ethnic groups originating from any Spanish cultures (e.g Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Central or South America).

- NA – Native American, including American Indian or Alaskan Native. The category ‘American Indian or Alaska Native’ includes all individuals who identify with any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintain [tribal affiliation](#) or community attachment.
- PI – Pacific Islander, including Native Hawaiian. The category ‘Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander’ includes all individuals who identify with one or more nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- W – White. The category ‘White’ includes all individuals who identify with one or more nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.
- MR – Multi-Racial. A person who identifies in two or more racial groups.

## Age

- Y – Youth. A person who is 17 years of age or younger.
- YA – Young Adult. A person who is 18 – 34 years of age.
- A – Adult. A person who is 35 – 64 years of age.
- OA – Older Adult. A person who is 65 year of age or older.

## Disability (note yes or no)

- A person who presents with some kind of physical, mental, or emotional disability.
- We acknowledge that many disabilities are not easily perceived so this category has limitations. We monitor this category to gauge if the setting is open and accommodating for all people to be fully present and participate as fully as possible.

## Status

- C – Clergy. In The United Methodist Church, clergy are those who are ordained deacons or elders, provisional member deacons or elders, associate members, or licensed local pastors. Clergy are members of an annual conference and are not members of a local church.
- L – Laity. Any person who is a member of a United Methodist Church.

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