

LOVEboldly

Year in
REVIEW

2020



LOVEboldly
LOVEBOLDLY.NET

LOVEboldly
DEAR LGBT+ FRIENDS

LOVEboldly
DEAR LGBT+ FRIENDS



Looking

Ahead to 2021

This coming year we will continue to host online webinars, offer virtual consulting/coaching with church leaders, and create new resources to facilitate love and deeper engagement between the church and the LGBTQ+ community.

**EMPOWERING WILLING
CHRISTIANS AND LGBTQ+
INDIVIDUALS TO STEP TOWARDS
LOVING ONE ANOTHER MORE BOLDLY.**



New Resources and Webinars!

This year we are planning new webinars on various topics & continuing to develop more resources! Our first webinar of the year will be on January 27th, called "What Would Jesus Do?" Visit loveboldly.net/events for more info & to register!



Expanding #AskingForAFriend

Keep an eye out on social media for our #AskingForAFriend series! We will be expanding our panel & producing more of these resources for the upcoming year! Visit loveboldly.net/askingforafriend to view our panel, ask questions & listen to our answers!



Trans Day of Visibility Webinar

March 31st is the annual Trans Day of Visibility. In honor of this day, we will be having part 2 of our "What the Heck Does That Mean?" webinar: a conversation on trans/queer/non-binary terminology. Visit loveboldly.net/events for more info & to register!

Visit loveboldly.net for all the latest information about our upcoming resources & events!

Our Supporters

Despite a year of much uncertainty, we were blown away by the support we received from people who believe in our work! We had our most successful #GivingTuesday ever & we were even able to award scholarships to Christian pastors, leaders, and others to receive training and consulting to better care for LGBTQ+ individuals.

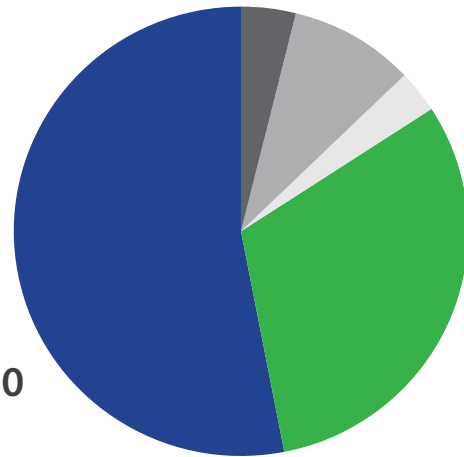


21 monthly supporters
31% increase from 2019
3 church sponsors
67 other givers

\$50,951
given to support our work

Here's How Generously You Gave!

- 4% \$5,000+
- 9% \$1,000+
- 3% \$500+
- 31% \$100+
- 53% Less than \$100



22
scholarships
awarded

\$7,536
given on
#GivingTuesday
alone

29%
increase in
giving from 2019

Our Year

Letter From Our Founder & Executive Director

The words of the apostle Paul have perhaps never rang truer than they have in 2020, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). In this passage of Scripture, we also encounter Paul encouraging us to rejoice in the Lord always (vs. 4) to worry about nothing and instead, allow God's peace to guard our hearts and minds (vs. 6), to be content with whatever we have (vs.11-13), and to trust that God will supply all our needs (vs. 19). What a great reminder!

This year has been one of struggle, loss, and fear for so many friends and supporters of our work, and for so many worthy nonprofits who serve the most vulnerable. At LOVEboldly, we have made plans, crossed them out, and landed on plan B, C, or even D throughout the year. Yet my heart is filled with gratitude as I look over this report in wonder. Not only have we survived 2020, but LOVEboldly has thrived, grown, and flourished in the midst of one of the most difficult years in remembered history.

We want to share all that you have helped us to accomplish in this report. I want to especially acknowledge the hard work, flexibility, and adaptability of our fantastic team (which grew by 2 this year!) and the dedication of our board, who led us through uncertain times with perseverance and faith in our work. And most importantly, I want to praise God for his steady presence and provision, and for the faithfulness he has inspired in each of you who have given more generously than ever before to support our work in uncertain times. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

As we venture into an uncertain 2021, we take joy knowing you are with us, God is with us, and together we can change the world as we work to empower Christians and LGBTQ+ folks to step towards loving one another more boldly. Thank you for joining us in what God is up to in this Kingdom work, even in the most trying of times, and even in the most difficult of conversations.

Grace and Peace,

Growing

Our Team

This Year We Hired Two New Employees!



Emily Mowery
Administrative Assistant

Emily Mowery (she/her/hers) began her role as Administrative Assistant in May 2020. She has a background in Occupational Therapy but found her administrative niche through community advocacy and her role as PTA President at her children's local elementary school. Emily has served as a catalyst for conversation around LGBTQ+ care and inclusion in her own faith community and learned about LOVEboldly by attending a Devoted conference. She is excited to contribute to this meaningful work.

Emily has a M.S. in Occupational Therapy from Ithaca College. She lives in Westerville, Ohio with her husband, Brian, and four school-aged children, Katy, David, Luke, and Anna. She enjoys being actively engaged with the surrounding community, as well as spending time outside with family and friends. Say hello to Emily at emowery@loveboldly.net!



Diane Gress
Communications Coordinator

Diane Gress (she/her/hers) began her role as Communications Coordinator in September 2020. Diane's heart began to break for LGBTQ people after her sister came out to her in college & she began to see the many ways that LGBTQ folks have been mistreated by Christians. God has given her a desire to see the church love LGBTQ+ people, even in the midst of theological disagreements. She has been a part of helping her own church, H2O Church in Columbus, grow in being a place where LGBT people can meet Jesus and find family.

Diane has a B.S. in Agricultural Communication from Ohio State. Outside of her work with LOVEboldly, Diane works full time as a campus missionary with H2O Church Columbus & desires to see students come to faith in Christ and grow as disciples. She's also a freelance graphic designer & enjoys cooking, hanging out with her dog & reading as many books as she can get her hands on. Say hello to Diane at dgress@loveboldly.net!

Pride 2020

Because we were unable to participate in Pride the way we typically do, this year we partnered with My Anchor Holds to declare #WeAllBelong, sharing messages of love, encouragement, and apology to our LGBTQ+ friends.

60 people joined us in writing messages

of love, encouragement & apology!

I love and support my LGBTQ+ family and friends. I want others to feel that same love and support.
- Marissa Kreutzer

I'm sorry that I, and my church have rejected you, shamed you, and ignored you. Your life and your love are beautiful. I promise to do better.
- Brett Osterwyk

You are loved, you are valued and you are beautiful.
- Rachel Dew

Each of you are SO SO SO LOVED by Jesus. WE ARE ALL fearfully and wonderfully made and I am standing with you. You are valued, you are beautiful, you are important, you are worthy, you are seen, you are heard, you are enough, you are loved...and you are not alone.
- Danielle Worch

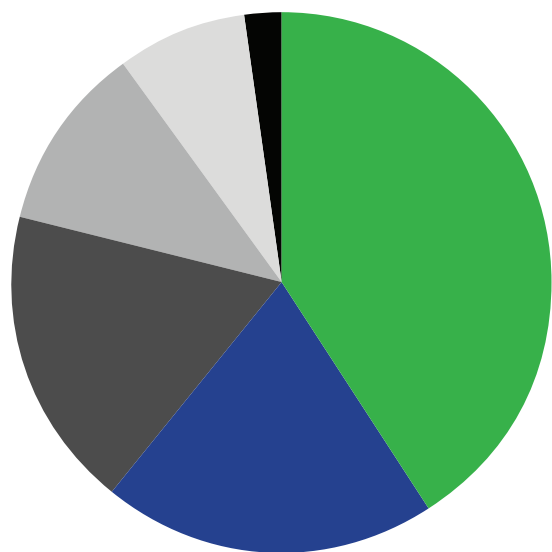
We as a church have for too long withheld the blessing of the church and God's blessing from LGBTQ persons by the rules and statements of our church organization. May God forgive us. Each LGBTQ person is a beloved child of God, and all are welcome at God's table.
- James Waugh

Our Webinars

This year we held 10 webinars: 4 standalone and 6 as part of our annual Devoted conference.

- Equipping Ministry Leaders
- "What the Heck Does That Mean?"
- Transgender Folks & the Church
- Clergy Conversations
- Caring for Families of LGBTQ+ Youth
- Equipping Ministry Leaders to Love LGBTQ+ People
- Creating Safety in the Church
- LGBTQ+ Forum with Q&A
- Two Views of Sexual Ethics
- Removing Fear from the Conversation

Diverse Attendee Theological Views



- 41% Side A
- 20% Side B
- 18% Between A/B
- 8% Between B/X
- 11% I'm not sure
- 2% Other

What people had to say:

"[The most enjoyable part of this webinar for me was] hearing two men who disagree speak so honestly, humbly, and kindly with each other."

"I have not participated in a LOVEboldly webinar until tonight. Well done! Great panelists, good conversation, lots of things to think about."

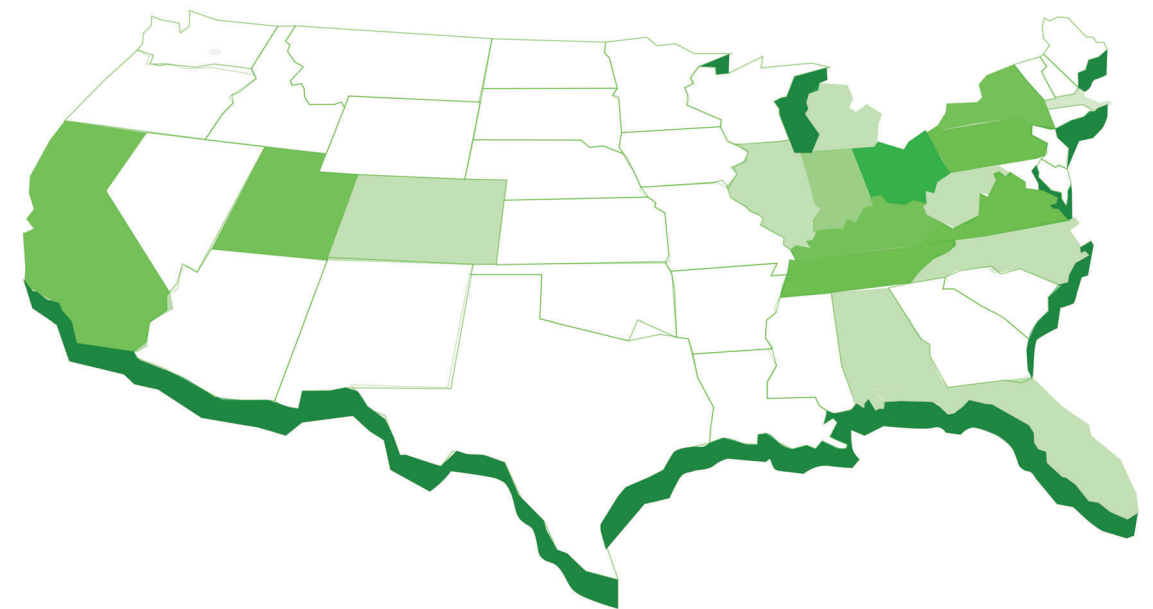
The panel was excellent. Their different perspectives were helpful. This webinar delivered what it promised--thank you very much for doing it!

"Keep on keeping on! You are doing groundbreaking work!"

Expanding Our Reach

2020 Took Us To New Places

Due to the pandemic, all programming in 2020 was held online. We stepped into the Zoom world of webinars and reached 180 people with 10 webinars and 2 training sessions. This also provided the added benefit of expanding our reach beyond the Ohio Valley region! We had attendees from 16 states from coast to coast and even Switzerland!



18
denominations represented

80%
felt better equipped

89%
would recommend to a friend



Continuing Our Work

Although many of our typical programs and services looked different this year, the pandemic did not stop us from continuing on in our work and developing new resources!

Devoted Conference

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LOVEboldly's annual Devoted seminar for ministry leaders was virtual this year!



Consulting Services

Even in a global pandemic, we continued to offer our virtual consulting services to churches in our area!

Our New Resources



Small Group Discussion Guide

This year we developed a new resource called "First Conversations on Sexuality & Gender Identity" designed for small groups at churches and faith-based organizations who are looking to start and guide constructive dialogue around the intersection of faith and sexuality/gender identity.

#AskingForAFriend

We began a new resource this year called #AskingForAFriend, to provide a place for people to anonymously ask their honest questions regarding sexuality and/or gender and hear a response from an actual LGBTQ+ person.

