

LOVEboldly



LOVEboldly

Year In Review

2021



**Empowering willing
Christians and LGBTQ+
individuals to step towards
loving one another more boldly.**

Our Year

Letters From Our Founder & Executive Director

2021 brought many transitions to LOVEboldly's work. I am proud that at the end of the year we have much to celebrate. You'll see in this report all the ways your giving and volunteering has continued to make an impact on our work, and we are so grateful for the ways you've showed up to support our impact this year. When I announced my transition out of the role of Executive Director this year, I had an unshakeable sense that God had a trailblazing leader in mind for us, someone who would lead our work with new vision and passion, growing our impact in meaningful ways. I'm so grateful God brought us Ben Huelskamp, who in every way is a bridge-builder, overflowing with the fruit of the spirit, and leading us into new programs and offerings that we believe will save lives, deepen faith, and provide hope to many who feel alone in 2022. I am so grateful for each of you who have continued to renew your support for our work in 2021, and I hope we can partner with you again in 2022. Thank you for all the ways you've helped us make our world and church a safer place for LGBTQIA+ people in 2021. We could not do this work without you!

Grace and Peace,



Founder & Board Member

"Trailblazer," "visionary," "unicorn," these are a few of the words that our board has called me in the little over two months I have been with LOVEboldly. While I'm fond of being a unicorn, what I hope to be with LOVEboldly is a builder and a partner. A builder on LOVEboldly's legacy of success and a partner with you and many others.

During another year lived through a global pandemic and a major leadership transition for our organization, we have much for which to be thankful and about which to be proud. We offered programming throughout the year and returned to an in-person Devoted in November. We are launching new small groups, office hours, and prayer meetings in January. LOVEboldly is poised to offer bi-weekly #AskingForAFriend videos during 2022 and will be launching monthly webinars beginning in April. Our dreams as an organization are big and with God's help our impact will be great. But we can only build and sustain our mission to save lives and create spaces where LGBTQIA+ people can flourish with your help. As you read and reflect on this report, I encourage you to also prayerfully consider how you can support LOVEboldly in 2022. We cannot do this work without you!

Faithfully,



Executive Director

Meet our new Executive Director



Ben Huelskamp
Executive Director

Born and raised in Ohio, Ben (he/him/his) grew up attending Catholic schools in Cambridge and Zanesville. He earned a BA in Philosophy from Sewanee: The University of the South and MEd in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of Vermont. Ben is currently a candidate for the EdD in Educational Leadership (specializing in Religion and Ministry) at the University of the Cumberlands. He is writing his dissertation on the leadership of LGBTQ+ Christians in church spaces.

Brought up in the Roman Catholic Church, Ben has always been active in the church in various roles, particularly in music. He joined the Episcopal Church in college and has attended a variety of congregations coming to consider the gray area between the Episcopal Church and the United Church of Christ to be his theological home. He is an active digital member of Middle Collegiate Church and will be looking for an in-person church home in Westerville.

Knowing from a young age that he was gay, Ben came out during college and became involved in social justice work. He is committed to addressing oppression in all its forms. He identifies as a Queer cis-gender man.

Ben describes himself as “quirky” and enjoys such diverse things as Christian music, folk music, art, tea, a good book, and everything pertaining to the Oxford comma. He is a family man with most of his family in Ohio and is a particularly doting uncle. As LOVEboldly’s new executive director, Ben is dedicated to helping the Church love LGBTQIA+ people because God made them in God’s image.

Expanding Our Reach

2021 Took Us To New Places

This year, between webinars and in-person events, we were able to connect with new audiences across the US and in Europe!



Continuing Our Work

In 2021, we were able to return to in-person programming, as well as continue to offer online resources! We were also able to participate in community events in the Westerville area and make new connections with local organizations!

Devoted Conference

We were able to hold our Devoted conference back in person this year with new speakers & sessions to equip ministry leaders to better care for LGBTQIA+ people! We had a blast being with everyone over the course of two days and engaging in difficult conversations across theological divides with grace & respect.



“

It was good to be reminded that there are LGBTQIA people sitting in the room every Sunday, along with parents, friends, and loved ones. This should affect HOW we talk about these topics.

- Devoted Attendee

”

Consulting Services

This year we worked with new churches through our consulting services to help their leadership teams navigate issues surrounding sexuality and gender identity in their congregations. We would love to work with your church too! Find out more on our website!

Our New Resources

#AskingForAFriend Podcast

This year we expanded our #AskingForAFriend video series into a podcast! You can now watch & listen to our bi-weekly videos where one of our panelists answers a question related to faith, sexuality or gender. Find the #AskingForAFriend Podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you listen to podcasts!

33
episodes

11
panelists

4,000
views &
listens

Available on
Spotify, Apple
Podcasts or
wherever you
listen!

Monday Moment

Monday Moment is our newest resource from our Executive Director Ben Huelskamp! Each Monday, Ben shares a reflection that provokes thoughtful engagement with a passage, idea or event, along with questions to consider and a prayer.

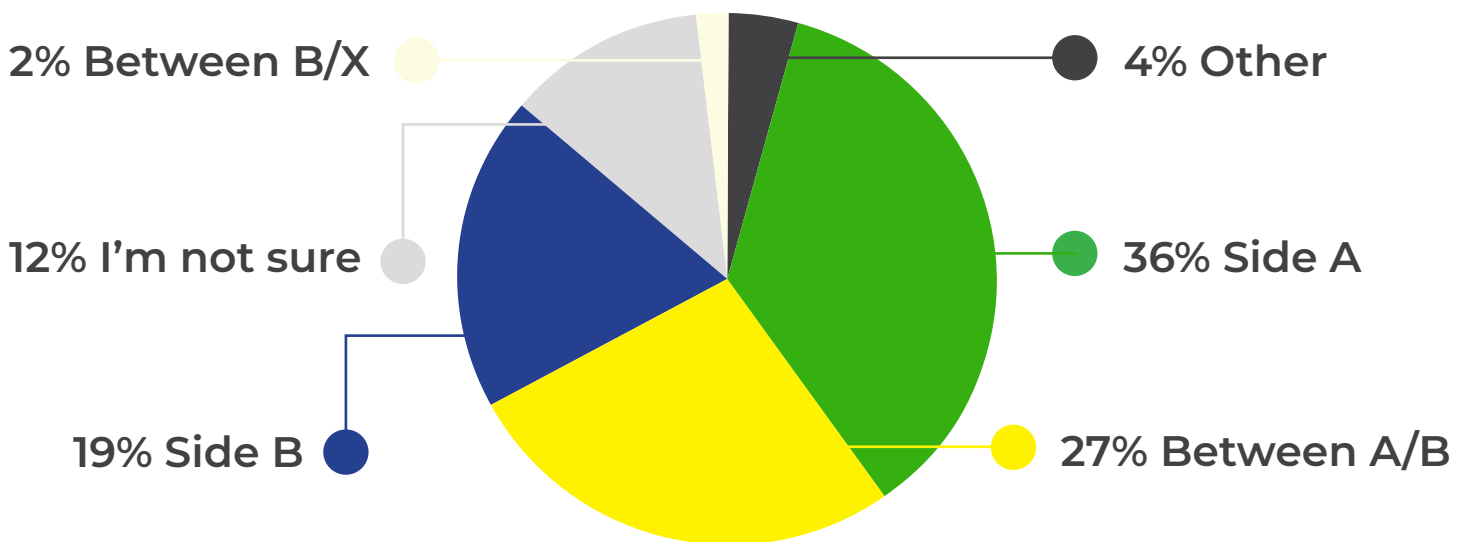


Our Webinars & Events

This year we held 5 webinars, along with our Devoted conference! We hosted 3 webinars and hosted 2 in conjunction with the Oxford Interfaith Center.

- What Would Jesus Do?
- What the Heck Does That Mean? Gender Edition
- Help or Hindrance
- History of our Views with the Oxford Interfaith Center
- Safe Sacred Spaces with the Oxford Interfaith Center

Diverse Attendee Theological Views



Our Investors

During this year of transition, we are so thankful for everyone who continued to invest in our work. Because of your investment, we were able to hire a new executive director, reach different audiences, expand our programming, and plan for the future!



\$32,210
invested in our work



Giving Facts & Figures

27
first time donors

\$1,667
given on
#GivingTuesday

13
scholarships awarded



Looking Ahead to 2022

We are so excited about what's to come in 2022! We have new programs, conferences & resources in the works for the year ahead!

LOVEboldly Small Groups

This January we began offering two different [virtual small groups](#): our [LGBTQIA+ Christians Small Group](#) & our [Parents & Caregivers of LGBTQIA+ Youth & Young Adults Small Group](#). These small groups are open to anyone, regardless of theological beliefs & are meant to be spaces that promote support, community & personal flourishing!

Prayer Time & Office Hours

Our prayer times and office hours are open to anyone who would like to connect with us! You don't have to be in central Ohio - we have virtual options for both. Check out the [Programs & Events](#) page on our website for more information about each of these resources!

Expanding #AskingForAFriend

This year we are expanding our #AskingForAFriend program to include new panelists with even more diverse backgrounds and life experiences. You'll be able to meet these new panelists in the coming months as they share their thoughts on various questions related to faith & sexuality. You can [find #AskingForAFriend on our website](#), social media or wherever you get your podcasts! And remember, you can submit your own questions for our panel to answer [on our website](#)!





Devoted Conference

We're already getting ready for Devoted 2022 and are planning to hold the conference at the beginning of November, so be sure to keep those dates free so you can join us! This year we'll be holding the conference on a weekend so that more non-clergy folks will be able to attend! Keep an eye out in the months to come for the exact conference dates, as well as new speakers & sessions for this year's Devoted conference!



Devoted Podcast Series

This March through May, we will be releasing our 2021 Devoted conference sessions as a podcast series! Each week, we will share the audio from our sessions as a free resource for anyone to listen to! Don't worry, you can still purchase the full video recordings on our website, but now you'll be able to listen to Devoted on the go!

New Content & Resources

We have lots of new content & resources coming in 2022 as well! We'll be starting up monthly blog posts, planning new conferences & events & will be back at Pride events this year! As always, if there are resources that would serve you, please don't hesitate to get in touch! We love developing new programs to serve the needs of our supporters!



**Visit [LOVEboldly.net](https://loveboldly.net)
and sign up for our
monthly newsletter so
you never miss a new
resource or event!**

