

FAITH

GENDER

SEXUALITY

WHAT WOULD YOU NEED TO FEEL SAFE IN THE CHURCH?

Happy PRIDE!! His image and likeness includes LGBT too

We SAY GAY HERE

Be Consistent

Acceptance? LOVE!

MUTUAL AID

NO tolerance for hate

Slay

New Bible!!

Loud, Proud, And actually practice what they preach. Also LESS Evangelizing.

LGBT+ Leaders

An Apology for the Collective Shame of the Church towards LGBTQ.

Advertised as LGBTQ welcoming

Ben Conversion Therapy

A new Bible

A church that supports all people from every gender, deity, sex, background, race! #PrideMonth

A church that actually practices the teachings Jesus said, and supports their community.

Respect Pronouns! Equality Be yourself

No judgement Acceptance

Low profile always staying in the shadows

Protection

That support

A church

Follow

Love

Love

Love



loveboldly

Annual Report

2022



Mission

LOVEboldly exists to create and develop spaces where LGBTQIA+ people can flourish in Christianity.

Vision

A world where all LGBTQIA+ people can feel safe, belong, and flourish.

Our Team



Dr. Ben Huelskamp
Executive Director



Rev. Brandan Robertson
Communications Coordinator



Rachel Dew
Board Chair



Heidi Weaver-Smith
Founder
Board Secretary



Sheri Lytle
Board Treasurer



Kelly Crouch
Director



Siobhan Boyd-Nelson
Director

OUR YEAR

Letter from our Executive Director



Dear LOVEboldly Community,

As a Midwesterner, I appreciate the four seasons we experience each year here in Ohio. For LOVEboldly, 2022 was a year of four very distinct seasons.

First, the winter brought financial struggle as we reckoned with the reality of several years of pandemic-related low fundraising. Our goal was to make sure that LOVEboldly continued its operations. Through the generosity of many people, we were able to right the boat and set a leaner organization back on a path to success.

During a tentative spring we explored high impact, low-cost options for programming and engagement. We became an integral member of the Honesty for Ohio Education coalition and engaged with Faith in Public Life Ohio, Equality Ohio, and others to work on nonpartisan, issue-focused organizing and advocacy. We also launched a monthly webinar series and continued to hold virtual small groups.

Bolstered by an exciting Pride Month celebrating our partners throughout Ohio (and beyond), we took the major step this summer of rebranding with the creation of new mission and vision statements and new logos. We also made the statement that we are an unequivocally Queer-affirming organization. NBC4 Digital recognized our efforts with a profile in their “Out in Ohio” series.

During the fall we continued our advocacy work with op-eds published in The Columbus Dispatch, and written testimony before state organizations. We also put significant effort behind our fundraising campaigns resulting in over \$20,000 raised in end-of-the-year giving, \$16,000 of it during Giving Tuesday. We successfully applied for a grant from the Fund for Ministry with LGBTQ+ People at King Avenue United Methodist Church. That grant will fund the communications coordinator position in full for 2023. While the year began with financial struggles, we ended the year raising 125% more during 2022 than 2021 from 82% more investors in 2022 than in 2021.

Through these four seasons, I have felt the immense support of the LOVEboldly Board of Directors and you, the LOVEboldly community, in so many ways. I truly have the best job in the world, and I thank God for bringing us together in ministry.

Faithfully,
Dr. Ben Huelskamp

Comprehensive Rebrand

In July, LOVEboldly unveiled new branding, including new logos, colors, a new mission statement, and a new vision statement. The new mission and vision are available on page one, and some of the new logos are used in this report. We also updated and renewed our position as a Queer-affirming organization and updated our statement of belief.

We Are Affirming

We are an affirming organization, but we do not require those we work with to hold a specific theology, sexual ethic, or denominational affiliation. We are an interdenominational organization.

We Believe

We are deeply persuaded that agreement with one another's political and theological perspectives is not essential for moving towards loving one another boldly. LOVEboldly, therefore, does not require adherence to a set creed, statement of belief, or faith perspective beyond modeling our actions after those of Jesus.

Programming

Webinars

During 2022 we hosted ten webinars (at least one per month from April through December).

LOVEBOLDLY WEBINAR

STUFF I'VE LEARNED
WITH HEIDI WEAVER-SMITH

PRESENTED
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022

LOVEBOLDLY WEBINAR

MAKING THINGS RIGHT WITH THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY
WITH BRIAN NIETZEL

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

LOVEBOLDLY WEBINAR

QUEERING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
WITH BEN HUELSKAMP

WEDS, JUNE 8, 2022

LOVEBOLDLY WEBINAR

WHY THE IDOL OF ROMANCE DOESN'T WORK FOR ANYONE
WITH PIETER VALK

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022
12-1:30PM EST VIA ZOOM

LOVEBOLDLY WEBINAR

RELIGIOUS TRAUMA AND RESILIENCY IN LGBTQIA+ BIPOC COMMUNITIES
WITH JOSE ROSARIO

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022
2-3:30PM EST VIA ZOOM

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UPCOMING WEBINAR

HEALING FROM SEXUAL SHAME
WITH MATTHIAS ROBERTS AND KELLY CROUCH

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13
1-2:30PM VIA ZOOM | FREE

MATTHIAS (HE/HIM) IS A QUEER PSYCHOTHERAPIST, PODCASTER, AND AUTHOR. KELLY (THEY/THEM) IS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS.

LOVEBOLDLY.NET/EVENTS

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UPCOMING WEBINAR

PANEL DISCUSSION AMONG QUEER PEOPLE OF FAITH
WITH SIOBHAN BOYD-NELSON AND ZAC BOYER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5
2-3:30PM VIA ZOOM | FREE

LOVEBOLDLY.NET/EVENTS

lovebaldly

UPCOMING WEBINAR

DISCUSSION ON DIALOGUING ACROSS DIFFERENCE AND CREATING COMMUNITY
WITH KRISTYN KOMARNICKI

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
7-8:30PM VIA ZOOM | FREE

LOVEBOLDLY.NET/EVENTS

lovebaldly

UPCOMING WEBINAR

DEVELOPING LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH
WITH AARON BAILEY AND JENNIFER FISHER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17
11AM TO 12:30PM VIA ZOOM | FREE

LOVEBOLDLY.NET/EVENTS

lovebaldly

UPCOMING WEBINAR

QUEER & CHRISTIAN ON CAMPUS: RUNNING A LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING COLLEGE MINISTRY
WITH REV. CHARLES GRAVES, IV

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8
7PM TO 8:30PM VIA ZOOM | FREE

LOVEBOLDLY.NET/EVENTS

Small Groups

LOVEboldly offered three small groups during 2022 including

- LGBTQIA+ Christians - Spring 2022
- Parents of LGBTQIA+ People - Spring 2022
- Queer and Allied Christians - Fall 2022

#AskingForAFriend

25 Episodes

9 Panelists

700+
Downloads
in 15 countries

Available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube, the LOVEboldly website, and other podcasting platforms.

Pride Outreach

LOVEboldly attended Columbus Pride and Westerville Pride in 2022

We interacted with over 500 people and gave out over 200 "free" hugs.



We had a new set of graffiti walls for folks to write on

Organizing and Advocacy

Op-Eds and the Media

Executive Director, Dr. Ben Huelskamp, published three op-eds with *The Columbus Dispatch*:

December - “Pastor: Disagreements now 'stuff of nightmares.' Ohio, nation needs a ‘moral revival.’”

September - “There’s Nothing Christian About Attacks on Trans Kids.” (Co-authored with Pastor Hank Osmundson and Rev. Jon Osmundson).

August - “Former haven for queer Catholics now welcomes group pushing LGBTQ ‘chastity.’”

NBC4 Digital profiled LOVEboldly for their "Out in Ohio" series.

Out in Ohio: Nonprofit Reframing LGBTQ+ Community’s Relationship with Faith. David Rees

Strategic Partnerships

LOVEboldly became an integral partner with Honesty for Ohio Education as well as the Ohio Council of Churches, Faith in Public Life Ohio, and Stonewall Columbus.



Church Partnership Program

In 2022 we launched a formal church partnership, solidifying our relationship with some of our collaborators while continuing to work with others informally. Our Church Partners during 2022 included:

● Westerville Community United Church of Christ
Westerville, OH

● Central City Church
Columbus, OH

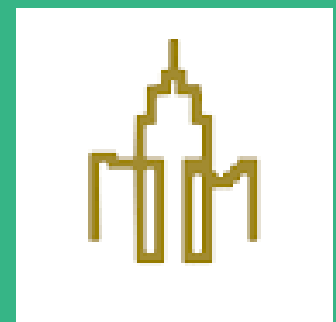
● Roots and Branches
Cincinnati, OH

● Legend Community Church
Madisonville, Cincinnati, OH

● Church for All People
Columbus, OH



Westerville Community
United Church of Christ



United Methodist Church &
Community Development
for All People

Our Investors

We are deeply moved by and appreciative of the generosity of our investors, supporters, and donors. We couldn't do this work without your support!

\$72,443

invested in our work

**111
Donors**

**76 One-Time
Donors**

**35
Recurring
Donors**

**\$16,000
Raised on
Giving
Tuesday**

Giving Facts and Figures

**125% more
raised in 2022
than in 2021**

**82% more
investors in
2022 than in
2021**

**63 First-Time
Investors**

Looking Ahead to 2023

Blessed are the Misfits

Part worship, part community group, all misfits are welcome to in this space designed for people who are finding it hard to (re-)engage with church.



A New Conference

Building on the legacy of LOVEboldly's Devoted Conference, 2023 will see a return to a two-day, in-person conference with a new name, new format, and a new (yet to be determined) name. More information to come in the next few months!

Expanded Communications Strategy

Hiring a new communications coordinator at the end of 2022, we're excited to roll out a new and expanded communications strategy that will see LOVEboldly on TikTok and other new platforms.



New Content and Resources

We're excited to launch a new podcast, "Creating Space," in 2023, featuring the lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ Christians. Are there other resources you're looking for? We'd love to hear your suggestions and thoughts!



Gold
Transparency
2023

Candid.

Gold Level of Nonprofit Transparency

LOVEboldly has been recertified, for the second year, at the gold level of transparency regarding our financial and governance practices by Candid.

An Invitation

Do you want to connect with LOVEboldly more or find ways to be more involved? Our Executive Director, Dr. Ben Huelskamp (call him Ben) LOVES to meet with people in-person, via Zoom, or over the phone. Please reach out to him!

Email: bhuelskamp@loveboldly.net
Calendar: <https://calendly.com/benhuelskamp>



Stay in Touch!

Visit our website for the most up-to-date information on LOVEboldly. Are you signed up for our monthly newsletter? You can sign-up on the website.

www.loveboldly.net