

CASE FOR

2021-2022

Support



Q Christian Fellowship



Can you imagine a world where all LGBTQ+ people are fully loved by family, church, and community, and Christians worldwide live up to their calling to be instruments of grace and defenders of the outcasts? **We can.**

Dear Family in Christ,

It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years since our community was founded as an online discussion group! What began as a small group of gay Christians conversing on a virtual message board has grown into a long-standing, vibrant, in-person and virtual family of tens of thousands of LGBTQ+ Christians, parents, and allies representing a multiplicity of beliefs, traditions, ethnicities, abilities, gender identities, sexualities, and nations.

We express our most sincere gratitude to those brave souls in our community who risked and endured so much along the way, sacrificed time and resources, and created this lush, green pasture in the wilderness for us to experience safety, affirmation, joy, and ultimately, God's divine love.

Not only can we thank the leaders of this community, but those who rioted in Stonewall; those who helped make gay marriage legal in the Netherlands, in Massachusetts, and eventually the entire United States; those who taught us to look beyond just the gay and lesbian experience into the vast expanse of sexualities and gender identities that constitute the LGBTQ+ family; those who helped secure increased employment protections under federal law; those who resisted racism and structural marginalization in LGBTQ+ communities and across society; those with disabilities who have advocated for increased access in every capacity and countless other siblings in Christ.

Yet, even as we look back in gratitude, we look forward to a world that continues to remain in desperate need of transformation. Many churches are dangerous places for LGBTQ+ Christians to belong. Many parents still seek out conversion therapy for their children. There are nations sentencing LGBTQ+ people to death. Trans women of color are murdered in the streets in violent acts of racism and transphobia. The pervasive realities of racism marginalize those who are black, indiginous, or persons of color. Too many injustices exist to mention here.

This is why Q Christian Fellowship, with your vital support, is committed to inviting others on a healing journey leading to a Spirit-filled life. Our staff is devoted and clear on the path ahead, our board of directors is active and growing, and our finances are exceptionally healthy, after weathering a few very challenging years. None of those would be possible without your support, as you will hopefully read in this document. In these pages, we express our optimism for the future, held deeply with gratitude for challenges weathered in the past. Together, let us bring about the wholly affirming and just Kin-dom of God, as followers of Christ, under a rainbow of faith.

With gratitude,



Bukola Landis-Aina
She, Her | Executive Director

Where We've Been

Milestones for Our Community

2001
Gay Christian Network
Founded as an Online
Message Board

2001
The Netherlands Legalizes
Same-Gender Marriage

2002
Western Australia Legalizes
Adoption for Same-Gender
Couples

2005
First Annual
GCN Conference in
Dallas, TX

2006
South Africa Legalizes
Same-Gender Marriage

2009
Uruguay Becomes First
Latin-American Nation
to Legalize Adoption for
Same-Gender Couples

2014
10th Annual
Conference in
Chicago, IL

2014
Supreme Court of India
Affirms Transgender
Identity Under Law

2018
Gay Christian Network
Becomes Q Christian
Fellowship

2015
United States Supreme
Court Legalizes Same-
Gender marriage

2020
Q Christian Community
Groups Reach 731
Cumulative Participants

2020
United States
Supreme Court Affirms
LGBTQ+ Employment
Protections

Where We Have to Go

Global Christians in Need of Affirmation

Presbyterian Church (PCA)

Membership: 367,000
Status: Non-Affirming

United Methodist Church

Membership: 12,720,000
Status: Facing Split Over LGBTQ+ Affirmation

Southern Baptist Convention

Membership: 14,526,000
Status: Non-Affirming

Anglican Communion

Membership: 80,000,000
Status: Largely Non-Affirming

Catholic Church

Membership: 1,345,000,000
Status: Non-Affirming

3X

LGB youth seriously **contemplate suicide** at almost three times the rate of heterosexual youth. (The Trevor Project)

LGB youth are almost five times as likely to have **attempted suicide** compared to heterosexual youth. (The Trevor Project)

5X

8.4X

LGB youth from highly rejecting families are 8.4 times as likely to have **attempted suicide** as LGB peers who reported no/low levels of family rejection. (The Trevor Project)

40% of transgender adults reported having made a **suicide attempt**. 92% of these individuals reported having **attempted suicide** before the age of 25. (The Trevor Project)

40%

Community Groups

By the Numbers

750+ Participants

worldwide, spread over 66 Groups

30% of Participants

outside the United States

Over a Dozen Group Types

including Coming Out, Parents, Bible Studies, BIPOC, Coming Out: en Francais, Sexuality & Spirituality, Trans & Gender-Expansive, and more



Community Group Testimonies



Patti

COMMUNITY GROUP PARTICIPANT



I came to the group a parent of a newly-out 25-year-old non-binary [child], still reeling and in grief. I had lost a daughter, in my mind, and I was struggling, with my emotions and with God. I felt so terribly bewildered that this was happening, and very much alone. The Q Christian parent group was a safe and caring space that helped me find my way. Through a focus on the power of God's love and the strength of community to guide us, comfort us, and accept us right where we are, I was put back in touch with the deep and unwavering love I have for my child, which enabled me to take the focus off of me (as a victim) and place it on understanding and supporting my child. The group changed my experience to all that was happening in my life, deepened my relationship with my child, and opened me to God's grace and guidance in new and meaningful ways. I am forever grateful.



Keila

COMMUNITY GROUP PARTICIPANT



In my QCF Community Group, I gained a new church, allies, and a closer relationship with God, I learned about how God talks to each of us in different ways to help us understand what he's trying to do with our lives and how He's helping us. For me, QCF Community Groups are safe spaces to learn about the Bible, God and us without the risk of being judged or condemned.

Conference & Parent Summit

By the Numbers

1,075 Attendees

at the 2021 Virtual Conference

\$8,757 in Scholarship Donations

for 31 people to attend the 2021 Virtual Conference, leaving ~15 full Scholarships available for 2022

65% of Conference Attendees

were First-Timers, having never attended a Q Christian Conference before

150 Attendees

for the 2020 Virtual Parent Summit Series, the largest to date



Mercedes A.

2020 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Ever since Conference, I have been trying to find a way to articulate my deep gratitude to those of you who provided my scholarship. The only way I can think of to do that is to explain to you the year I had leading up to the 2020 Q Christian Fellowship Conference.

I realized and accepted that I was gay in August of 2018. I began my first relationship that November. I came out publicly on social media the following January 1st, 2019. It was a birthday gift to myself, choosing to live this next year of life as my full self. I came to my very first QCF Conference on January 1st, 2020, the 1-year anniversary of my coming out and my 25th birthday.

Coming out was a whirlwind. I had previously been a missionary, so when I came out publicly, a lot of people became angry. I received countless messages of condemnation and judgment over all forms of social media and even to my home address. I still get those letters once in a while. I lost friends that I had known for years, and was even fired from a nonprofit I was working with. I was told I wasn't welcome back into the country I had been

a missionary in for years. I lost people and I lost my dream.

Yet at the same time, I found life beyond what I ever imagined. I found the freedom of being out and proud. I found community with queer Christians and even began work in LGBTQ activism and affirming faith spaces. For the first time in my life, I didn't live every single week with suicidal thoughts. I learned what it felt like to be myself. I am finding that I have new, bigger dreams than I ever believed possible.

In the midst of loss I found great hope, endless love, and profound joy. Conference felt like standing on the mountaintop after a long journey, looking back at all I had gone through and all of those who helped me along the way. All of you were a part of my story and my healing when you supported the scholarship. You gave me an opportunity to heal and celebrate that I never could have experienced otherwise. You have become a part of my story, and I thank you for that.

Q CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAL AND CELEBRATE THAT I NEVER COULD HAVE EXPERIENCED OTHERWISE.



Online Resources

By the Numbers

96 UNCHANGED Stories

published cumulatively since 2019

5,010+ Total Downloads

of our 7 Affirmation & Relational Guides

55,000+ Social Media Followers

across Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter

2,200+ Downloads of The Good

Fruit Project launched in partnership

with The Trevor Project

185,700+ Visitors

to Q Christian websites in 2020



Art Mayes Jamison

UNCHANGED CONTRIBUTOR

Although I didn't have a full understanding or language for it, I knew I was different at a very early age. I admired and was attracted to feminine energy, but I was also attracted and gravitated to masculine energy as well. It wasn't until I reached my teens that I realized what this meant. I wasn't simply gay, but my sexuality was definitely fluid.

As early as I can remember, I was taught either directly or indirectly that being gay was not a good thing, and that a man being feminine or a woman being masculine was also unacceptable. It wasn't even really cemented by Christian views more than it was asserted by social standards. So, in order to meet this standard, I worked very hard to never stray from what was expected. As I became a teenager and same-gender love became more acceptable in the media, my faith space was sure to teach against what they called "homosexuality". This really impacted as I began to think something was wrong with me. That's when I started to ask God to change me and worked hard to change my attraction through discipline, spending lots of time reading Scripture and praying for this "gay" to be taken away.

There came a point where I realized that trying so hard to be something I wasn't was a miserable life. I was depressed, stressed, and felt so alone. After years of trying to change, seeking godly counsel, and letting everyone else's voice lead my life except my own, I was fed up. My heart was broken because I felt rejected, but in that brokenness, something amazing happened. I surrendered what I thought was truth and asked God, "If you're not going to take it away, please just show me why." That's when the unthinkable happened and God began to lead me down a path of acceptance that I never knew was possible.

My questions changed and thus the answers I began to find also changed. I began to find precious queer folks that have been doing the work of reclaiming their faith and reconciling it with their sexuality. I began to find extensive theological arguments for same-gender love, testimonies of revelations and encounters with God that affirmed LGBTQ+ people, and faith-filled couples who were living their truth

and loving each other. One example is the testimony of SBC Pastor Danny Cortez and his son who came out. The revelation of love he shared moved me to literal tears as I received his acceptance of his son Drew as God's acceptance of me. Another example is the love story of Dave and Tino. Their union has been a beautiful example of what's possible, and their eventual book *Modern Kinship* is a staple in my home and relationship.



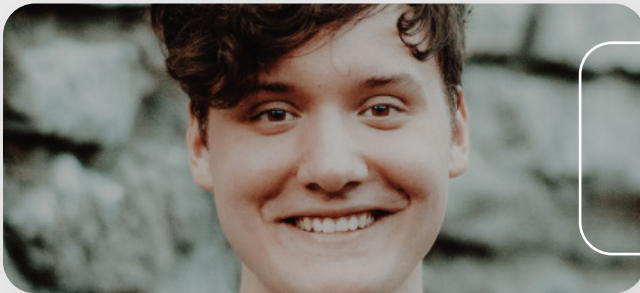
Today, I can truly say my life is blessed. More blessed than I ever could have imagined. I am currently a worship pastor in an affirming ministry called Powerhouse Global Network and making space for everyone seeking a spiritual inclusive community. My husband and I have been able to come out to our families and though that comes with its challenges, it has been worth it to walk in authenticity. We also have found a new calling as artists to create affirming, inclusive music that brings comfort and edification to those who are on their own journey. You can find our music on all streaming platforms.

The Team Behind the Mission



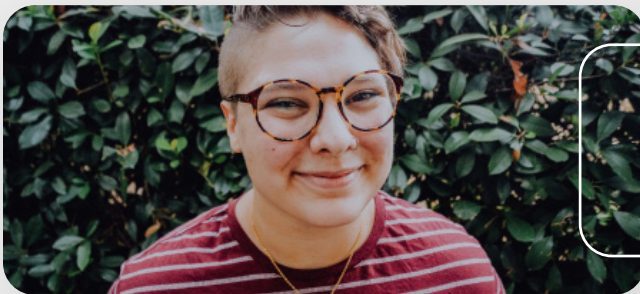
Bukola Landis-Aina (she/her) is our part-time Executive Director, working full-time as an attorney in Washington, D.C., as well as being wife to Tonetta and mother to their son, Temitayo.

Lauren Moser (she/her) is our full-time Operations Director managing programs, finances, and every little detail while living and working in Denver.



Nathaniel Green (he/him) is our full-time Communications Manager, navigating our branding, graphic design, and communications from his home in Nashville.

Christopher Dowling (he/him) is our part-time Development Manager; he also works full-time for a non-profit while splitting time between Austin and Houston.



Alysha Laperche (they/them) is our part-time Program Coordinator as well as a seminary student and sunset-lover living in Fort Worth with their partner.

Carter Kelly (he, they, she) is our part-time Administrative Assistant. Carter lives in Chicago, Illinois and enjoys taking people to her favorite restaurants.



The Money Behind the Mission:

May 1st, 2021 - April 30th, 2022



CAMPAIGNS & INDIVIDUAL GIFTS	\$70,007
RECURRING/PLEDGED GIFTS	\$120,000
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$75,000
CONFERENCE	\$212,566
PARENT SUMMIT	\$9,752
INCOME	\$487,325



PROGRAMMING & EVENTS	\$278,047
EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, TAXES, & FEES	\$20,807
FUNDRAISING	\$27,600
MESSAGING & PASTORAL RESOURCES	\$77,267
ADMINISTRATION	\$64,018
EXPENSES	\$467,738

NET INCOME \$19,587

In the previous fiscal year (2020-2021), our expenses were \$281,988 and our income was \$398,182, providing a surplus of \$116,194, rising from a few causes. As we pivoted with the rest of the world during Covid, a fully virtual version of programming allowed us to save additional costs, while still rising to our community's needs during this time. More intentionally, cash savings were pursued in the aftermath of great financial challenges in 2019. Thanks to our generous supporters and a determined stewardship effort in which staff managed deep cost cutting and negotiations with our vendors, we are now on solid financial footing with these cash reserves. We are grateful that these reserves, in combination with new funds raised, will help us sustainably grow and achieve our mission.

Past Support

In all of 2020, 476
supporters contributed

\$297,716

Ongoing Support

183 supporters are contributing

\$9,863

monthly in recurring gifts with an
average gift of \$62 per month

Donor Testimonies



Lauren & MJ

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

After coming out, I (Lauren) was gripped with fear over whether my faith allowed me to love and be loved as a gay person. Meeting so many authentic queer people of faith at QCF Conference gave me the confidence to explore my queerness and my faith in harmony for the first time.

My partner MJ and I support QCF because **queer people need to hear a message of love and acceptance** from within the Christian community to combat toxic theology. **This work is valuable and saves lives.** I'm at peace with myself and happily partnered as a result. Thank you, QCF!



José

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

As an LGBTQ+ person and a Christian, one of the things I want most is a place where **I feel accepted and loved for all that I am.** Both are part of my identity, and it is not always easy to feel in community as such. The **Conference gave me the opportunity to connect** with a group of now friends who share the same experiences and desires, a **community of full inclusion** for all that I am. We stay in touch to this day. I was happy to become a monthly donor at Conference as my way of saying "thank you."

It's time to **take action.**

Give online

by visiting qchristian.org/take-action.

Give by mail

to PO Box 21267, Denver, CO 80221.

**Give stock, a legacy gift, or an
employee-matched gift.**

Give a Conference Scholarship

by visiting qcfconf.org/register.





Donor Affinity Groups

PTA (Parents Taking Action) for parents of LGBTQ+ children supporting Q Christian

Give a Conference Scholarship

by visiting qcfconf.org/register.

Volunteer Support Opportunities

Share your UNCHANGED story.

Become a Community Group Leader.

Host a donor gathering.

Get involved with the Board.

Serve at Conference.



Tony

2021 CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

The biggest resource that has honestly changed the trajectory of my life was Q Christian Fellowship. Prior to finding QCF, I had a pretty strong faith and desire to serve God, even believing that God may be calling me to ministry as a career. When I decided to come out, I began to fear that other queer Christians just did not exist. I remember praying to God that if I was going to move forward with coming out, He needed to guide me to queer Christian community, and within a few days, a friend of mine shared an Instagram story of a QCF post, and within a couple of weeks, I had signed up for my first QCF conference. Conference is what ultimately skyrocketed my faith to a new level and opened my eyes to the pure and raw beauty of queer Christian community and has led to me pursuing it deeper and seeking it out in new ways.

A special thank you to our Board of Directors.



DARREN
CALHOUN



PAULA STONE
WILLIAMS



DANNY
CORTEZ



RICKY
CRISWELL



AB
WEEKS



LUTHER
YOUNG



DAVID
CLARK



NATE
OSBURN



CARRIE
NEAL



ERIN
CONNELLY

REACH OUT TO CHRISTOPHER DOWLING AT (817) 964 4677
OR OFFICE@QCHRISTIAN.ORG FOR ASSISTANCE
QCHRISTIAN.ORG | (888) 203-7798



**Q Christian
Fellowship**

FY2021-2022