



The Proud Parent™ Ask Me Anything Tour: Part One

A Vital Mental Health Resource for Faith Communities to Support Families and their LGBTQ+ Kids

The Need: Supporting Families in Need of Information

- While LGBTQ+ resources are concentrated in cities, families in suburban and rural communities often navigate their child's identity in isolation.
- Parents and grandparents who want to support their children face a vacuum of information and an abundance of misinformation.
- Being better informed is life-saving; evidence shows that family affirmation is the single most effective intervention in reducing LGBTQ+ youth suicide and depression.

The Church Advantage: Safety, Neutrality, & Access

- To prevent public stigma, a trusted local environment serves as a neutral sanctuary.
- Church leadership strengthens their ability to provide counsel and better understand and support their congregation.
- This workshop offers a "low-barrier" point of entry where families can seek expert guidance without feeling vulnerable.
- By hosting this work, faith communities provide the anonymity and accessibility necessary for families to begin the work of affirmation.

The Program: A 90-Minute Foundation

This workshop is a clinical-grade intervention designed for the "kitchen table." It follows a practical, two-part structure:

- **45 Minutes of Education:** Nathaniel establishes the foundational principles of affirmation and the neurobiology of acceptance, turning "clinical theory" into parenting tools.
- **45 Minutes of Ask Me Anything (AMA):** An unscripted dialogue where families get direct answers to the questions they are often afraid to ask:
 - *Is my child too young to know?*
 - *How do I talk about sex and identity in an age-appropriate way?*
 - *How do I handle harmful language from relatives?*



The Presenter: Lived Experience and Expertise

Nathaniel Gray, MSW, brings a wide range of experience, both lived and professional, to this presentation:

- **Rooted in the Work:** While receiving his Masters in Social Work from Fordham University, Nathaniel worked directly with homeless LGBTQ+ youth as a clinical counselor and case manager.
- **NYS Contractor:** Currently a Subject Matter Expert for the NYS OMH Suicide Prevention Center (SPCNY), developing statewide suicide prevention training.
- **Policy Architect:** Former Empire State Fellow; co-authored the LGBTQ+ practice guidance used across New York State child welfare and civil service systems.
- **Regional Leadership:** Former Executive Director of the Pride Center of the Capital Region; raised over \$1.5M to expand mental health services in rural and suburban counties.
- **Lived Experience:** Raised in rural Ohio in an Evangelical military household, Nathaniel survived active youth suicidality and speaks with a unique blend of clinical expertise and lived truth.

Program Logistics & Delivery

- **Tour Window:** September 15th – November 15th, 2026.
 - Availability for presentations are Wednesday evenings, and Sunday, either after morning service or in the evening. Contact Nathaniel for date availability.
- **Structure:** 90-Minute Workshop (45-min Education / 45-min Facilitated AMA).
- **Cost:** \$500.00 flat booking fee for host organizations.
- **Registration:** Handled entirely by Gray Area Consulting via a dedicated online portal and QR code; there is zero administrative burden on church staff.
- **Environment:** A safe, inclusive, community-based location such as a fellowship hall or conference room.

Bring The Proud Parent™ Ask Me Anything Tour: Part One to your church community. Contact Nathaniel Gray, MSW at grayarea.consulting