

Dear Friends,

update february 2018



Each January, the Portland Fellowship staff has the privilege of meeting with the Board of Directors for our Annual Planning Meeting. Our Board is an amazing team that is exceptionally gifted at encouraging each of us on staff, as well as asking productive and challenging questions that refine and inspire us for the ministry ahead. It is in this time that we, the staff, report the great things the Lord has done through our various roles and assigned tasks.

As we reflected on the past year, we were especially grateful to share with the Board the completed revision of both volumes of the Taking Back Ground material, the upgrades to our facility and property we accomplished, and how God opened up well-received opportunities for us to share His transforming work, both locally and out of state. Beyond those accomplishments and opportunities, we witnessed a powerful year of ministry as participants in the Upper Room Community, the Taking Back Ground discipleship series and our Family and Friends Hope Group grew deeper in the knowledge and love of Jesus. It was a remarkable year.



Following our 2017 reports, we shared our vision for both serving the people who come to PF and implementing practical ministry developments for the coming year. We established several goals, and I am excited to share with you some of our top objectives.

Our first objective is to build up our support for women. This area of ministry has lacked a presence over the past year, and we have been praying for the right person to fill this need. Our desire has been to have a designated leader for the women in our Taking Back Ground program, and for women who are seeking information and support from Portland Fellowship. I'm pleased to share that KathyGrace Duncan has enthusiastically agreed to take the lead in this very important position.

When KathyGrace began her walk into the truth of who she is, she also walked into Portland Fellowship. After living for eleven years as a man, she yielded her heart and said "yes" to the invitation to become the woman God created her to be. Through her obedience and courage, and with the support and love she's received, KathyGrace is now living in the fullness of restoration as a daughter of God. This month, she celebrates twenty-five years of freedom and redemption. KathyGrace isn't new to us—she has been like a big sister to me for over twenty years, and has always been a blessing in every ministry opportunity she embraces. She has served in our Taking Back Ground program as a teacher and small group leader, as well as a mentor for our Upper Room Participants. Her heart is for women to

"He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners."

ISAIAH 61 : 1

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know who they are in Christ and to understand how valuable they are. We're excited for KathyGrace to oversee this position on our ministry team!

Our third objective is to develop the lot that sits west of the Fellowship House. Over a year ago, Hinson Church sold their portion of the lot to a developer. That space now contains a large twelve-unit housing complex. As a result of these changes, there is now twenty-five feet of unused space between the Fellowship House and the new housing unit. At our planning meeting, the Board and staff brainstormed different uses for this space and decided on a plan to make the area a place of both prayer and social interaction. This side lot will include a community fireplace, flower garden boxes and outdoor seating and lighting. The area will be lined with pavers, fenced for privacy and be accessible with a new staircase descending from the west side of our wrap-around porch.

Along with these three objectives is our desire to continue reaching out to the church community and offer our discipleship programs to those struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions and identity confusion.

The Lord has given us supporters, like you, to make this all happen. Patrick, Heidi, KathyGrace and myself, along with the entire Board, are so grateful for your love and support. We ask that you continue to pray with us that God's people will seek to surrender their lives to Him, and that they will experience the amazing blessings of Christ as they put their trust and hope in Him.

In Christ,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

Prayer Requests



- Please pray for the families and friends attending Portland Fellowship's Hope Group. Many are confused, hurting and seeking support in how to relate to their gay or transgendered loved ones in a Christ-like way. Ask the Lord to comfort them with His peace that passes all understanding as they bring their concerns to Him in prayer and thanksgiving (*Phil. 4:6-7*).
- Our Taking Back Ground retreat will take place this March. For many of the TBG participants, this will be their first TBG retreat experience. Ask the Lord to prepare their hearts to fully surrender everything to Him. Pray, as well, that the Holy Spirit unites us and that Christ would be our central focus that weekend.
- Please pray for PF Staff and Board members as they prepare for various speaking engagements around our city, state and country this year. Ask the Lord to open people's hearts and prepare them to receive His message of truth, hope, love and transformation through Christ.

Portland Fellowship is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 nondenominational organization. We are exclusively supported through private donations, support services and offerings. Thank you for your gifts.

events calendar

tuesdays in february **Taking Back Ground** **Wives Group**

Discipleship programs for men and women struggling with SSA; wives of husbands who struggle.
7-9:30 pm at the PF house.

thursdays in february
Upper Room Community
Intensive live-in discipleship program. Participants and staff meet for prayer, teaching and discussion.

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Hope Group
For friends and family of gay and transgender loved ones. Join us for a time of prayer, encouragement, support and a great meal.
6:30 pm at the PF house.

Speakers, counseling, youth support and personal support can be arranged through the office.

Check website for additional updates
at www.portlandfellowship.com