



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update june 2023

I've never been more excited to be a PF board member. If it sounds like we're having our next board meeting at Disneyland, we're not—Ha! I'm excited because God is using my involvement with the board in the same way He is using other areas of my life: to illuminate my utter dependence on Him.

This excites me because it has been my experience that when I recognize my utter dependence on God, my perspective is better, my joy is more complete, my stress is lower, and I am more attentive to how God is inviting me to join Him in what He is doing around me.

One of my sons struggled this past year with a lot of shame and guilt. The Accuser (Satan) was working overtime. After accessing all my prior learning in biblical studies, family studies, and psychology, my son was still struggling, and this was a deep struggle having a major impact on his ability to function in daily life. It was agonizing as a father to see the effects this was having on him and our family. I wanted to remove his struggle, but I was helpless. God used that to illuminate my dependence on Him, and drive me to act like I'm dependent on Him. I'm thankful for that. Psalm 46:1-3 says, *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."* This verse is a beautiful reminder that even when everything around us is falling apart, God is with us and is our source of everything.

Utter dependence on God isn't what's left after our perceived self-sufficiency fails. It's the reality of our lives. We are utterly dependent before we realize we have a need. We are utterly dependent in the midst of our perceived self-sufficiency. And we are utterly dependent after God graciously reminds us of that reality. Even as a nation, we've had many things over the past few years that have illuminated our utter dependence on God.

You might be wondering, "Is there a limit on how many times Eric should be allowed to use the word 'utter' in front of the word 'dependence'? Isn't that redundant?" While the word "dependence" does imply a strong reliance or need, the use of "utter" emphasizes the complete and absolute nature of the dependence. The Bible states, *"For in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28a)*, and, *"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." (Psalm 127:1)*

Many come to Portland Fellowship in complete brokenness. They come in distress, feeling overwhelmed, and feeling helpless. It is the mission of Portland Fellowship, and the heart of our staff and volunteers, to assist them in embracing a posture of utter dependence on God through the person of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. *"The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." (Psalm 51:17)*



Eric is a member  
of the PF Board  
of Directors

"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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Just like we as individuals are dependent on God, the ministry of Portland Fellowship is dependent on Him, too. God provides the vision, and the mission to achieve that vision. He provides the finances to complete the mission, and the volunteers to serve participants. Thank you for your partnership in financial support, in volunteering, and in prayer. Please pray for:

- A clear vision for the ministry through Jason, Patrick, KathyGrace, and the PF Board
- Finances and means to carry out the mission to achieve that vision
- Volunteers to serve participants of the various Portland Fellowship programs
- Participants who are crying out to God and ready to embrace a position of utter dependence through Jesus

At Portland Fellowship, we believe that our relationship with Jesus is the foundation for all healthy relationships, including our relationships with ourselves and others. In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul writes, “*But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*”

I have one more ask: Would you be intentional about sharing the availability of Portland Fellowship resources with those around you in your churches and faith communities? There are many Christians in the world who struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction and gender confusion. There are Christians who are wondering how to show love to a struggling friend, co-worker, or family-member as Jesus would. The Portland Fellowship website has resources and groups that can be accessed anywhere in the world through our online programs and virtual meetings.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Eric Bindewald  
PF Board Member

## Xposed Conference - June 3rd



The 2023 Xposed conference will take place on 6/3 at Cedar Mill Bible Church in Portland, OR. This event helps pastors, leaders, counselors, and individuals navigate the sensitive issues surrounding biblical sexuality. To register: [www.xposedevent.com](http://www.xposedevent.com) (use the code **XP23PF** for a discount).

## RHN 2023 HOPE Conference

This year's Restored Hope Network annual conference, HOPE 2023, will take place online, June 9 & 10. To register: [www.restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf](http://www.restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf)



## Summer 2023 Zoom Program: “The Journey”



This summer, PF will be offering the video series “The Journey” on Tuesday nights in July & August, from 6–8pm (PST) on Zoom. This eight-week study is for those seeking freedom from unwanted SSA & gender confusion. To register: [www.portlandfellowship.com/events.php](http://www.portlandfellowship.com/events.php)

**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

**June 3**  
**Xposed Conference**  
KathyGrace will be sharing at this conference on biblical sexuality. Cedar Mill Bible, Portland, OR.

**June 9-10**  
**RHN HOPE 2023**  
Restored Hope Network's annual conference will take place online.

**June 9**  
**In-Person Hope Group**  
For friends and family of gay or trans-identified loved ones. 6:30 p.m. [www.portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php](http://www.portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php)

**June 25**  
**KathyGrace Speaking**  
Southeast Christian Center  
Portland, OR.

**Speakers and personal support** can be arranged through the office.

Check website for additional updates at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)