



PORTLAND  
fellowship

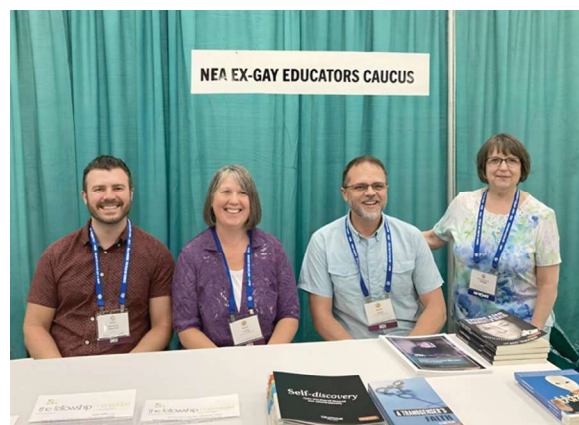
Dear Fellowship Partners and Friends of PF,

update august 2025

I've long recognized the deepening moral crisis in our culture and its growing rejection of truth. Last month, however, while helping host a booth at the National Education Association's (NEA) annual convention in Portland, I directly experienced that crisis in a more sobering way.

As the largest and oldest teachers' union in the country, the NEA is known for its progressive stance. With both of my sons having attended public schools, our family wasn't unfamiliar with the ideological shifts in education, especially as "woke" culture has become more dominant. It's truly by God's grace that my sons remained rooted in their faith and even found opportunities to share the Gospel with classmates. Still, if I had attended this convention years ago, when our boys were starting school, I probably would have chosen a different educational path for them.

Our invitation to help host a booth came from Sue Halvorson, a longtime NEA member and chair of the 'Ex-Gay Educators Caucus', founded in 2004. The caucus exists to provide updated research, studies, and testimonies to help educators support those experiencing unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion. It promotes education, compassion, and truth, not condemnation. Officially recognized by the NEA, the caucus stays afloat only by maintaining a minimum of twenty-five members. Yet its presence is met with intense scrutiny.



I joined Sue at the booth, along with her cousin Trish, Patrick Silvis, and Liisa Bradshaw, one of our Hope Group leaders. It didn't take long to sense the hostility. From the start, every piece of literature we displayed—even brochures and business cards—had to include a little sticker with the disclaimer: *"The views expressed in this document are those of the caucus. The caucus has no authority to speak for or act on behalf of the NEA."* Out of more than 40 caucuses represented, only ours—and possibly the pro-life caucus—were singled out this way.

As delegates passed the row of pro-LGBTQ caucus booths, they would then catch sight of ours, and their reactions were often immediate: expressions of confusion quickly turning to disgust. Some cautiously asked, "What is 'ex-gay'?" Most had never considered that a student with unwanted SSA might want help that aligns with their convictions, but there were a few who "got it"—we could almost see the lightbulb going on above their heads! Sadly, many others turned away, visibly angry or unsettled, as if our very presence was offensive.

Later, I attended the main assembly, hoping to better understand the convention's overall tone. The NEA president stood before the delegates and declared, "We stand with all students who refuse to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance...until every gay and trans student feels safe and accepted." The room exploded in applause—more than ten thousand public leaders and educators cheered with full enthusiasm.

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

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I expected a liberal posture, but the depth of their dark conviction was sobering. At first, I felt saddened and frustrated. But as I returned to the booth, my grief shifted to righteous indignation—not only for Sue, but for the countless students being shaped by educators who refuse to be educated themselves.

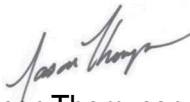
Some interactions felt more like confrontations. A group of women dressed in LGBTQ symbolism swarmed our booth, tossing insults (keep in mind, these are school teachers and counselors). Sue, a retired teacher barely five feet tall, stood firm. She calmly shared the intent of the caucus: to offer data and insight into the physical and psychological risks of puberty blockers and gender surgeries. But the crowd wasn't interested. Some tried grabbing our materials; one attempted to rip off Sue's badge. Later, a woman eyed a stack of books that Sue had bought with her own money. "Are these ALL free?" she asked, with an immature and mocking tone. As she began collecting the books, I looked her in the eyes and gently asked, "Be honest—are you planning to throw them away?" To my surprise, she paused, admitted she was, then returned the books and walked off.

This pattern persisted throughout the event. However, amid the scoffing, there were some who expressed genuine interest and even offered quiet support. A few people leaned in and whispered, "Thank you for being here. I'm with you," before quickly slipping away, afraid of being seen as traitors to the NEA. I believe those moments mattered, and God used us to plant seeds of truth that He will grow in these people (*1 Cor. 3:6-9; John 8:32*).

It's never easy to stand in the face of ridicule and resistance. You may remember June's update, when we were denied fire and safety service from a local company. As frustrating as that was, this experience revealed something far more important: our children desperately need prayer, protection, and clarity—especially when so many educators are blind to the truth. Let's also pray and give thanks for our Christian teachers who are shining light in the darkness.

Thank you for helping us remain a voice in our church, our community, and even in our schools. With your prayers and support, we will continue to proclaim the love and truth of God, wherever He sends us. Your partnership matters, and we are deeply grateful.

In His service,



Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

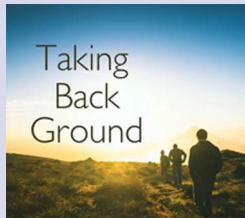
### Summer 2025: In-Person Hope Group



The Hope Group will be meeting in-person the second

Friday of the month in August (8/8) & September (9/12). Join us at the PF house for dinner, testimonies, personal sharing, and prayer for our LGBTQ-identified loved ones. [www.portlandfellowship.com/friends\\_family.php](http://www.portlandfellowship.com/friends_family.php)

### Fall 2025: TBG & Hope Group



Our 2025-26 discipleship programs now accepting applications! Taking Back Ground is for

Christians struggling with unwanted SSA/gender confusion, and Hope Group is for friends & family of gay and trans-identified loved ones. To register: [portlandfellowship.com/programs.php](http://portlandfellowship.com/programs.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

august 8

#### In-Person Hope Group

Join us for a night of food, testimonies, sharing, & prayer for our LGBTQ-identified loved ones.

6:30pm

[portlandfellowship.com](http://portlandfellowship.com)

august 23

#### KathyGrace Sharing

KathyGrace will be sharing her testimony at the Freedom March at Tom McCall Park in Portland, OR.

1:00pm

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

For additional updates:

[www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)