

## Group Covenant

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To make truly safe space for everyone, the “It Gets Better” group keeps this covenant:

- **What we say here stays here.** Privacy is hugely important for people working through their sexual orientation or gender identity. We have to trust each other to keep our mouths shut outside of the meetings.
- **Our presence here is private.** We don't tell anyone else who we saw here.
- **There is room for disagreement.** We won't always have the same ideas about what should happen next, in the group or in life. That's okay. We can agree to disagree.
- **You can feel all the feels.** It's okay to feel nervous or sad or excited or angry or anything else, and to express it. Don't try to make anyone else feel something different than they are feeling.
- **Bad feelings are no excuse for bad behavior.** Don't make someone else feel bad just because you feel bad.
- **The leaders guide; the group decides.** Ros and Travis are here to help. Respect them, please. The group makes decisions about how meetings should go. The group can decide to ask someone to leave, temporarily or permanently, if they're taking away from the emotional or physical safety of the meeting.

## Contact Us

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Galileo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
www.galileochurch.org, click “It Gets Better”  
email [info@galileochurch.org](mailto:info@galileochurch.org)  
phone 817-773-3147

## Credentials

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**Rosalind Evans** earned her BSW and MSW at the University of Oklahoma. She worked in the OKC public schools with youth at risk in areas of poverty, delinquency, truancy, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy. Her Ph.D. research at UTA focuses on LGBTQA topics, with an emphasis on youth and young adults at risk, resilience, and empowerment. Through her research she hopes to establish welcoming environments for LGBTQA people seeking services. Ros' passion provides her the courage and strength to advocate for acceptance and understanding for the LGBTQA community. Email [altus.gary@gmail.com](mailto:altus.gary@gmail.com).

**Travis A. Weber** earned his BA at Pepperdine University and his M.Div. at Yale Divinity School. He has volunteered with a rape crisis center in Connecticut, coordinated student chaplaincy on a university campus in California, and served two years in the Peace Corps among Amerindians in South America. He continues his pastoral work as a hospital chaplain in Fort Worth. His Ph.D. research at TCU focuses on sexualized violence and gender. Travis and his spouse Harmony have a baby daughter. Email [travisaweber@gmail.com](mailto:travisaweber@gmail.com).

**Galileo Church** sponsors “It Gets Better.” Galileo is a progressive Christian community that is committed, among other things, to “doing justice for LGBTQ humans.” Galileo believes that God creates people perfectly, no matter what their orientation, and that the church should get busy breaking down barriers that keep people from being the whole people God created them to be. Galileo does not seek to change anyone's sexual orientation or gender identity. “It Gets Better” is not a religiously themed group; the church does not interfere in its meetings or recruit for our faith tradition from its membership. See more: [galileochurch.org](http://galileochurch.org). Email [info@galileochurch.org](mailto:info@galileochurch.org). Phone 817-773-3147.

It  
Gets  
Better.

(a guided friendship group  
of teens and young adults  
for sharing and support  
around LGBTQ identities)

Safe space  
for you  
to be  
you.

## Our Mission

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"It Gets Better" creates safe space for older teens and young adults to talk with each other about LGBTQ identities.

We believe every person should have every chance to grow into the **whole, healthy person** they are intended to be.

At "It Gets Better" **you can share with friends** who know what it's like to discover and declare your sexual orientation or gender identity.

## What We Do

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"It Gets Better" **meets once a month** in a private room in a Mansfield public space. When you're referred to the group, email [info@galileochurch.org](mailto:info@galileochurch.org) for time and place.

Each meeting **starts with a topic**, like "talking to parents" or "coming out at school." But the conversation goes wherever the group needs it to go.

**Two trained leaders** facilitate conversation and maintain the group covenant. They're not counselors; just guides so the group members can help each other.

**We don't do counseling** or one-on-one help.

**We recommend resources** for needs that come up in the group: for counseling, for emergency shelter, for crisis help, for future planning and more.

## Who Can Come

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"It Gets Better" is open to everyone. But to keep our space safe, **we practice these guidelines:**

- **You must be recommended** by a school counselor, one of the group leaders, or another member of the group.
- If you're 18+ we'll **do a background check** after you've attended one meeting.
- The group can ask someone not to come back if they threaten the atmosphere of **safety and acceptance for all.**

## What We Talk About

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The "It Gets Better" group decides its own topics. But mainly we help each other through the **complications of coming out.**

- Am I gay? (or lesbian or...)
- How do I talk to my parents?
- How do I tell my best friend?
- Should I come out at work?
- I'm being bullied at school.
- The college experience and coming out.
- Does God still love me?
- What is dating like for someone like me?
- How to love being the person you are.
- Getting help to survive your emotions.

## Our Group Leaders

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**Ros** is a Ph.D. student at UTA who studies social work. Her specialty is creating welcome for LGBTQA people who need help. Her love for Ninja Turtles led her to bring home a pet turtle named Sirena, or "mermaid" in Spanish.



**Travis** is a Ph.D. student at TCU who studies pastoral counseling. His specialty is helping people through their deepest hurts. He has a new little baby named Elora, and he wants the world to love her for whoever she turns out to be.