

**From:** Jennifer R O'Rourke <\_\_\_\_\_@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Thank you for meeting with us today  
**Date:** February 19, 2019 at 12:17 PM  
**To:** sarah@churchclarity.com



1st set of communication after our gave to face meeting

Blessings,

Jennifer O'Rourke  
404-386-7779  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Gavin Adams <\_\_\_\_\_@northpointministries.net>  
**Date:** July 30, 2018 at 1:02:25 PM EDT  
**To:** Jennifer R O'Rourke <\_\_\_\_\_@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you for meeting with us today

Jennifer, thanks again for sending me this email and for the time we spent together.

As I have read through your original, unsent email, there is one thing I'd love to address specifically: "Christy did not say these words but that is what was taken from the conversation."

That sentenced stood out to me. I hope that after our meeting, you, Rory, and Kaitlyn understand more fully that what was felt wasn't necessary what was actually communicated. The hardest part of feelings is that they are relevant and valid even when they are not perfectly accurate. As I said when we were together, I certainly understand why these feelings surfaced, as they may have with me if I were in her position. But I hope Kaitlyn and your family understand more fully that Christy, UpStreet, and our church love Kaitlyn the same today and we did a year prior. That has not changed and it will not change, even if your family decides to engage in another church in time.

I know that Christy has reached out at least once to Kaitlyn (maybe multiple times). She is definitely not being "disowned" (that word was in your message, as well). Do you think Kaitlyn would be willing to spend some time with Christy again? I know Christy would love to grab coffee or just hang out a bit.

I am still working through some options, but I wanted to respond directly to your message. So you know, in most of our leadership volunteer positions (small group leaders, stage, etc.), when a person goes through a significant life change moment (as Kaitlyn is doing), we often ask them to step away for a season for their own health. This is especially true with our younger leaders.

Thanks, Jennifer. I'll be back in touch.



Gavin Adams

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On Jul 18, 2018, at 6:47 PM, Jennifer R O'Rourke <\_\_\_\_\_@gmail.com> wrote:

Gavin,

Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with my family today. I know meetings like this one are probably not at the top of your happy list but for what it's worth you are very good at diffusing tense situations. I'm still not sure where I stand with the church but your use of the

stand with the church but your use of the word “yet” did give me a glimmer of hope for the future. I guess I’m still struggling with the idea of being part of a welcoming church as opposed to an affirming church. I wrote a letter a couple of days after this all went down and when I showed it to my husband he said this sounds like a goodbye letter and asked me if that’s what I wanted it to be. Honestly at the time that was the only option I saw. Now I’m wrestling with the idea of being apart of a church where my daughter is not fully accepted in hopes of someday possibly being more accepted. It’s really hard to know what to do. My daughter is a fighter. She has been fighting her medical issues for her entire life and I’m not sure that I want to add this to the load that she is already carrying but I also know that if she thinks that there’s a chance that she can make someone’s else’s world a better

MAKE SOMEONE'S ELSE'S WORLD A BETTER place she is willing to endure what's thrown at her for the greater good. Below is the "goodbye" letter that I originally wanted to send. I'm hoping that over time we can work together to make Woodstock City feel like our home again and that I will have a much different letter to write.

Gavin,

A few years ago while attending a service at Woodstock City I heard the words "the church should be the safest place for a gay teen". These words were music to my ears. I had always wondered if my views lined up with my church on this topic and I finally had confirmation that we were on the same page. A few months ago when our 16 year old daughter came out to us I was worried about her encountering hateful people. She slowly and privately came out to her

...the way she privately came out to her friends, extended family, small group leaders and her small group and I must say that I was so touched by how everyone embraced my girl. Their words of love, acceptance and encouragement brought happy grateful tears to my eyes. These encounters reinforced my love for my church. On June 10 my daughter posted a beautiful "love letter" to the gay community and for the first time publicly declared that she is gay. It was part of a campaign for PRIDE month and I couldn't be prouder of the words she wrote. The comments and text she received were so positive and uplifting. Then on Sunday June 17 when my daughter a life long North Point attender and 5 year volunteer arrived to do sound check before she was to lead worship at the 9am service and then planned on staying to lead her 2nd grade small group (of 3 years) at the 11am service

group (the group) at the 11 am service was taken aside by Christy Jones before the 9 am and told that because she was gay that she was no longer allowed to be in a leadership position at the church. Christy is someone my daughter has looked up to, loved and respected for years. She is the person my daughter wanted to baptize her and she is the person that crushed my girls love for all things Woodstock City by telling her that her church no longer thinks she's a good role model for children. Christy did not use these words but that is what was taken from the conversation. My daughter left with her head held high and somehow managed to maintain her composure until she got to her car. Kaitlyn has always felt like Woodstock City was her home and the volunteers, children in her small group and her InsideOut small group were her extended family. My girl volunteered the first two

family. My girl volunteered at the church services, attended the 1:00 adult service and then went back at 4:30 for InsideOut. Kaitlyn “hosts” a bible study in her car before school and writes and inspirational Christian blog. This is a girl that is on fire for the Lord and is always bringing friends to InsideOut because she knows how important it is for everyone to have a personal relationship with their Heavenly Father. Kaitlyn is in every way someone that is a great role model. I often hear from adults at Woodstock City and elsewhere that they either want to be like Kaitlyn when they “grow up “ or they want their children to be like her. I don’t know why “the safest place for a gay teen” has a policy that will not allow gay people to be in leadership but I do know that your policy has cost you one of your best volunteers and most loyal members. She now feels like her UnStreet family has disowned

...the her spouse family has also been  
her and that she is only conditionally  
allow back in her home. Thankfully her  
faith is strong enough that this act of  
discrimination did not put out her fire for  
God and her desire to teach others. We as  
a family are searching for a church that  
will accept my daughter for who she is  
and will allow her to do what she feels  
called to do and that is to use her many  
talents to teach children about the love of  
God. I hope that in reading this letter you  
reconsider your policy on letting gay  
people volunteer in every position in  
your church. LGBT people should be  
treated the same as everyone else that  
wants to be a part of your church and  
being a part of your church is getting  
involved through volunteering and  
joining a small group because we all  
know that circles are better than rows. 22  
years ago when I started attending North  
Point it changed my life and I could not

It has changed my life and I could not be more grateful for the influence it has had on my marriage and my children. It breaks my heart to be searching for a new church home but our family can no longer be part of an organization that does not see the value in our gay daughter simply because she loves differently. I believe that Kaitlyn was made on purpose and for a purpose and that my daughter being gay was no accident. She is an amazing and unique human being. I was recently reminded of those words on your UpStreet Instagram post. I am attaching a copy of the Instagram post that set all of this in motion so that you know what was said. Thank you for your time. I hope this letter is the start to making all North Point environments safe for the LGBT community.



Jennifer O'Rourke

Sent from my iPhone