

Made, Known, Loved: Developing LGBTQ-Inclusive Youth Ministry

Ross Murray

Ross Murray is an ELCA Deacon and co-director of The Naming Project, a queer-affirming summer camp where faith is shared and healthy, life-giving community is modeled. Through his work, Murray hopes to help youth cultivate a holistic identity incorporating both their faith and their sexuality. Murray's new book, *Made, Known, Loved* aims to guide congregation leaders and parents in cultivating welcoming and affirming environments for LGBTQIA+ youth.

Made, Known, Loved will equip readers with the tools and thought processes they need to begin creating an inclusive space in their church or youth group. This work always starts by examining our values and studying our unique contexts. While the book works through twenty-five commonly-fielded questions about queer youth ministry, Murray reassures us it's not about memorizing every definition or always knowing what to say; instead, we can dignify the youth entrusted to our care by building relationships with them, listening to and believing them, affirming their whole self and showing up consistently for them.

Murray closes by challenging readers to not only change their youth group environment, but to change the world their youth live in: "When we pray for such a change, we have to be open to the possibility that we are the ones who can create a better, more inclusive place for LGBTQ youth. We may be called to be the very advocates for whom we are praying" (163).

Made, Known, Loved can be purchased [here](#) from Augsburg Fortress. More information on the Naming Project can be found [here](#).

Possible pullout quote: "Having just *one* supportive adult in their life can reduce the likelihood that an LGBTQ youth will attempt suicide by 40 percent"

Possible image:

