

Increasing Family Support to Prevent Suicide & Homelessness for LGBT Youth

Sponsored by NC Families United

Date: May, 7, 2019 ***Time:*** 9am – 12pm ***Location:*** FUMC; 1630 Westbrook Ave. Elon, NC 27215

Critical research from the university-based Family Acceptance Project (FAP) has shown that families have a compelling impact on risk and well-being—including suicidal behavior, illegal drug use and homelessness, as well as on self-esteem, general health and positive development—for their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. Based on this research, Dr. Caitlin Ryan and her team at the Family Acceptance Project have developed the first research-based family support approach to help prevent suicide and homelessness and to support positive development for LGBT young people—in the context of their families, cultures and faith communities. As part of this work, Dr. Ryan has helped many agencies, including religious denominations and congregations, to provide education and pastoral care that is informed by this critical research and helps families to reduce serious health risks while maintaining religious and cultural values.

About The Presenter

Dr. Caitlin Ryan is a clinical social worker and researcher who has worked on LGBT health and mental health for more than 40 years, with a focus on adolescents and families. As the Director of the university-based Family Acceptance Project, she has developed the first research-based family support approach to prevent major health risks and to increase family support and wellness for LGBT young people. Her work has been recognized by professional and community groups in the fields of counseling, medicine, nursing, psychology and social work as well as by faith-based and civic groups. Dr. Ryan has provided education and training for more than 90,000 providers, families, religious leaders and policymakers on this work across the U.S. and in other countries and works with religious leaders and pastoral counselors from a wide range of religious backgrounds in carrying out this work.