



Center for  
LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES  
in Religion **25** YEARS

**CLGS News and Updates | January 2026**

---



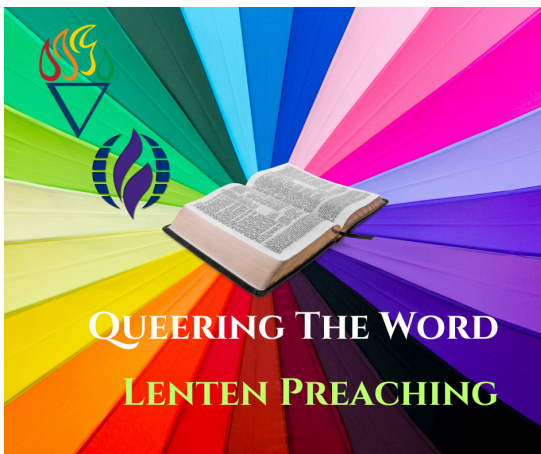
# 2026: A Year to Reclaim Religion and Rescue Religious Liberty



By Bernard Schlager

"In our current political climate that seeks to roll back protections for LGBTQ+ people, our families, and our communities, we refuse to be cowed by the hateful religious rhetoric that undergirds such discriminatory policies. We will not be silenced."

[Read more of Bernie Schlager's Reflection HERE](#)



**Lenten Preaching | A CLGS and MCC**  
***Queering the Word* Workshop with Rev. Dr.**  
**Tijuana Gray and Rev. Jakob Hero-Shaw**

In this online CLGS and MCC *Queering the Word* preaching workshop we will look at the lectionary texts for Year A – from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, and we will offer supplemental materials that **highlight queer icons and heroes** who can enrich our Lenten journey and the hope of resurrection.

**ONLINE Wednesday, 28 January 2026 @ 1pm (Pacific Time)**

[Click HERE to join this online CLGS Event via Zoom!](#)

A Micro Certificate

# Catholic LGBTQ+ Ministry

Facilitated by Dr. Ish Ruiz



**February 2, 5, 9, 12, & 16**  
**4:00 - 5:00pm (Pacific)**  
**Online via ZOOM**

[Click HERE](#) for more information on this new CLGS Microcertificate!



## Our Trans Religious Leadership Cohort Class of 2025-2026

CLGS is a proud co-sponsor of the **Trans Religious Leadership Cohort**, which is a collaborative partnership between CLGS, the Freedom Center for Social Justice, and the National LGBTQ Task Force.

This month we celebrate **Nate Esparza** (they/he), an emerging voice in liberatory chaplaincy and narrative-based spiritual care. A queer, trans, disabled writer and graduate student, Nate is earning their Master's in Religious Studies at Georgia State University with a concentration in chaplaincy, focusing on care for queer,





## TRANS RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP COHORT

Empowering students in spiritual formation

disabled, and neurodivergent communities at the intersections of trauma, identity, and sacred resilience.

Nate works for the **Unitarian Universalist Association** and serves as a **Wellstar Fellow** in spiritual care and clinical chaplaincy. They sit on the board of the LGBTQ+ Institute at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights and support Dying Trans—a trans-led storytelling and archival project—through volunteer work in digital strategy and communications.



## This Month In Queer Religious History

**JANUARY:**  
**1965 NEW YEARS BENEFIT BALL**

During our 2025-2026 Anniversary Year, we will honor each month one person, community, and/or event of significance in LGBTQ+ religious history.

This month, January, we celebrate the **1965 New Years Benefit Ball!**

**Read more about the 1965  
New Years Benefit Ball**



## Mark Your Calendars!



## MELANIN: The Good... The Bad... and the Sacred



The 19th Annual CLGS John E. Boswell Lecture  
Thursday, **16 April 2026** @ 4pm (Pacific Time) | **ONLINE**

Bishop Tonyia Rawls

Register now for our **16 April 2026** online Boswell Lecture featuring  
**Bishop Tonyia Rawls**

**Click [HERE](#) to register for this online CLGS Lecture!**



# Check Out These CLGS Resources!



Check out this recent CLGS *Lavender Lunch* which featured **Professor Chris Finley** speaking on **Queer Indigenous Thrival: Remembering Our Histories**, a conversation about Queer Indigenous hope and generosity in these times of despair.

[Click HERE for a video recording](#)



## Professor Julia Watts Belser: **Queer Crip Revelation: Disability Dance, Jewish Text, and the Sacred Potency of Difference**

We invite you to view a video recording of our 2022 CLGS 13th Annual **Georgia Harkness Lecture!**

[Click HERE for a video recording](#)

## 2025-2026 is our 25th Anniversary Year!



[Donate Now](#)

### Contact Us

1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley CA 94709  
Call Us: 510-849-8206



- [Website](#)
- [Our Work](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [News and Press](#)
- [Events](#)

CLGS at Pacific School of Religion | 1798 Scenic Ave | Berkeley, CA 94709 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!