



CENTER FOR LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES IN RELIGION

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

## CLGS News and Updates | January 2026

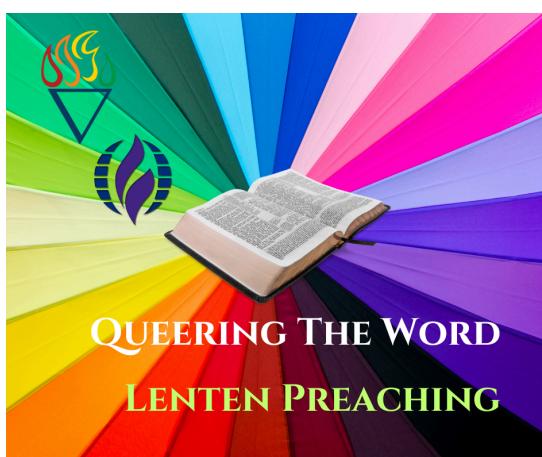
# 2026: A Year to Reclaim Religion and Rescue Religious Liberty



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.



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**

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!**



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## Contact Us

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Call Us: 510-849-8206



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