



Center for  
LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES  
in Religion **EST. 2000**

## News & Updates | May 2022

**Applications Are Open for the 2022-2023 Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort!**

### Homosexuality and the Christian Tradition

A Summer 2022 ONLINE Graduate Course

**Taught by Professor Bernard Schlager, PhD**

**June 2022**



This online Summer 2022 ONLINE Graduate Course, offered by Pacific School of Religion, will be offered from 8:30am to 12:30pm (Pacific Time) the weeks of **13–17 June and 20–24 June 2022**.

**Click Here for More Information on this Summer 2022 Course!**

### Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort 2021-2022 Cohort Spotlight



**TRANS SEMINARIAN  
LEADERSHIP COHORT**

*Lead with Love*

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

**Task Force**. The Cohort, launched in 2012, is a year-long learning experience for transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students and is open to students of all faith traditions who are studying in a seminary setting, CPE residency, or similar training for religious leadership. Throughout 2022 we will highlight a different Cohort member in this, our monthly e-newsletter.

**May Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort Spotlight**

## Averyn Payne

**Averyn Payne** (they/them) is a second-year seminarian at Yale Divinity School in Connecticut. They enjoy nature, painting, anime, and being with friends. Averyn calls Oregon home when they're not in school. They are in seminary to continue a lifelong journey of seeking and questioning and hopes to follow God into their next adventure!



## Honoring Two Michigan Pioneers of LGBTQ Equality A Reflection by Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow



In the span of weeks, LGBTQ+ communities in Michigan lost two giants of Gay Liberation: **John Lawrence Kavanaugh** and **James Willis Toy**.

Rev. Dr. **Roland Stringfellow**, Coordinator of the CLGS African American Roundtable, honors these men "for their love and support of our church as well as leading the way for so many to be their radically

inclusive selves and to speak up and speak out against injustice in all forms."

[Click Here to Read Rev. Stringfellow's Reflection](#)



CLGS is proud to serve once again as a Community Sponsor for the **18th-Annual San Francisco International Queer Women of Color Film Festival**

"QWOCMAP will premiere 35 films in 5 screenings at their FREE International Queer Women of Color Film Festival, **June 10-12, 2022** at the Presidio Theatre in San Francisco's Presidio National Park. The 18th Anniversary Festival Focus, **Love, Embodied**" transmits networks of liberatory intimacy and collective care that traverse time and place. From the pulse of remembrance to plexus of kinship and community, to laughter that quickens to desire and the rhythmic rituals of dance and poetry, these films breathe expansive possibility into love and birth new worlds."



[For more information, click here to access the festival's website!](#)

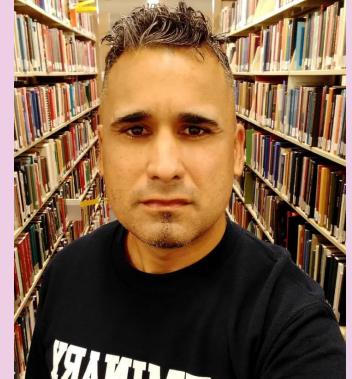
## Exploring Seminary Life through Queer Latinx Eyes

*A CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation*

with **Omar Rodriguez De la O**

ONLINE Thursday, 5 May 2022, at 12pm | Pacific Time

In this online *CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation*, sponsored by The CLGS Latinx Roundtable | *Fe, Familia, Igualdad*, **Omar Rodriguez De la O**, currently a second year seminarian at Virginia Theological School, explores seminary life from his own Queer Latinx perspective.



Omar Rodriguez De la O graduated with an undergraduate degree from a Bible Institute in Puerto Rico in 2003; was ordained in a charismatic tradition and served as a church planter. After coming out he joined the Episcopal Church and is currently in his second year of seminary studies at VTS. He is seeking ordination in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. Omar is married to Edwin Rodriguez De Jesus.

[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Event via Zoom](#)

## Love Is My Sanctuary

*A CLGS Lavender Lunch*

with **Unoma Azuah**

ONLINE Friday, 6 May 2022, at 12:15pm | Pacific Time



In this CLGS Lavender Lunch **Unoma Azuah** explores a variety of themes related to her experiences as an African, lesbian immigrant to the United States.

She will also share excerpts from her recently-published memoir, *Embracing My Shadow: Growing up Lesbian in Nigeria*, and discuss some

of the challenges that she encountered as a lesbian coming of age in Nigeria. In all of her work, Azuah reveals a deep personal awareness of love as her sanctuary, and she bears witness in all of her work to an understanding of love that has contributed to her own journey to self-acceptance.

Unoma Azuah is a college professor, a writer, and an LGBTQ+ activist. Her book project on the lives of gay Nigerians entitled *Blessed Body: Secret Lives of LGBT Nigerians* was published in 2016, and she is currently working on another book project: *Wedged Between Man and God: Queer West African Women's Stories*. Her just-released memoir, *Embracing My Shadow: Growing up Lesbian in Nigeria*, has been described as "powerful" by the prestigious *Ms. Magazine*.

[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Lavender Lunch via Zoom!](#)

## Check out these CLGS Resources!



### Latinx, LGBTQ+, and Faith Communities: An Inclusive Experience

View this recording of a recent CLGS *Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation* featuring **Ana Ester, André Musskopf, and Cris Serra** exploring their experiences as Brazilian LGBTQI+ Christians and their research on the topic. They invite us to know more about **church and inclusion in Latin America**, considering its history, its possibilities of inclusion in both evangelical and Catholic contexts.

[Click here to view the video recording!](#)



Check out the **3rd edition** of our popular weekly blog **52 Ways to Expand Your Welcome to LGBTQ+ People and Our Families**.

Every week in 2022 we are posting suggestions on how your faith community can become more welcoming to – and inclusive of – LGBTQ+ People and Our Families! [Click here to view our 52 Ways blog!](#)



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### CLGS: Shaping A New Public Discourse On Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

Your financial support makes it possible for us to offer innovative programming that explores and supports LGBTQ people of faith, our families, and our spiritual communities. Together, we are shaping a new and progressive public discourse on religion, gender, and sexuality.

## Thank you for your support!

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