



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

News & Updates | February 2023

**Professor Pamela Lightsey is our 2023 Boswell
Lecturer!**

#BLM

In this essay CLGS Managing Director **Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow** writes that "#BLM is more than fashion that is worn on a shirt or a sign in the window or a placard at a rally. It involves demonstrating a commitment to racial justice that continues until the work is complete in our own areas of influence."

Click [HERE](#) to read the entire essay !



Ministry with Queer Youth

A CLGS Lavender Lunch

with **Dr. Ish Ruiz**

ONLINE Tuesday, 14 February 2023, at 12:30pm | Pacific Time

In this online CLGS *Lavender Lunch* Dr. **Ish Ruiz** will explore how Christian ministers can engage confidently in this challenging ministry by offering:

- An overview of what queer youth are reporting in terms of **what it means to "grow up queer" today**, with particular attention to the needs of queer youth.
- A **theological framework** for understanding ministry with queer youth.
- Some **practical advice** for ministry with LGBTQ+ persons.



Dr. **Ish Ruiz** is a post-doctoral fellow of Catholic Studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and holds a PhD in Theology and Ethics from the Graduate Theological Union. His research interests explore the intersection between queer theology, Latinx theology, ecclesiology, sexual ethics, liberation, human rights, and Catholic education.

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

Our Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort

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 2023 we will highlight a different Cohort member in this, our monthly e-newsletter.

January Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort Spotlight Joelle Henneman



Joelle Henneman (she/her) is a ridiculous runner, a various musicophile, and a pacifist veteran. She also serves as the senior pastor of the United Methodist Church for All People in Columbus, Ohio, where all people are loved by God, just as they are, no matter what. Joelle's passion for ministry is to draw the circle of God's love large enough to include people often excluded by the church.

While in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Joelle created a worshipping community with people experiencing homelessness called "Community of Hope." She is a social justice warrior who serves as a leader with Central Ohio's Faith and Public Life, the Ohio Progressive Faith Advocacy Table; she also chairs the West Ohio Conference's Just Mission team. Joelle graduated with her MDiv degree from Brite Divinity School in 2009 and is working on her

Doctorate of Ministry degree, focusing on expressions of transgender ministry, at Pacific School of Religion.

[Click Here for more information on our Trans Seminarians Leadership Cohort](#)

From Convent To Seminary

A CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation
with **Lenia Pacheco Salas**

ONLINE Thursday, 16 February 2023, at 1pm | Pacific Time



From Convent to Seminary: The Seminary Journey of a Black Latino Caribbean Queer Lesbian

A CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation with

LENIA PACHECO SALAS



THURSDAY
16 FEBRUARY 2023
1PM-2:15PM (PACIFIC TIME)
ONLINE

Join us for our next CLGS **Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation: From Convent to Seminary: The Journey of a Black Latino Caribbean Queer Lesbian** with Pacific School of Religion student **Lenia Pacheco Salas**.

After seven years as a Missionary of Charity, Lenia realized that Catholic religious life was not the place that God wanted her to be. While it was a difficult decision to leave the convent, she felt that doing God's will was more important. After leaving the order and moving to Miami, Florida, Lenia began exploring her sexual orientation. This exploration led her, in turn, to embrace the word "queer" as one way to understand her own identity.

This Queer Latinx Faith Conversation will continue Lenia's story from convent to acceptance to seminary.

Faith Family Equality

The Latinx Roundtable

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

A Charge to Keep: 20 Years of Black Queer Theology at CLGS

A CLGS African American Roundtable Event

with Revs. **Cedric Harmon, Gwen Thomas, and Roland Stringfellow**

ONLINE Thursday, 23 February 2023, at 12pm | Pacific Time

Join Revs. **Cedric Harmon, Gwen Thomas, and Roland Stringfellow** for an in-depth conversation about their work as organizers of the **CLGS Souls A'Fire Conferences** which have promoted the development of Black Queer Theology among new generations of scholars and activists.

A sneak preview of our April 2023 **Souls A'Fire Conference** will also be provided!



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

Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey
The Big Lie and Its Old Hatred
The 16th Annual CLGS John E. Boswell Lecture
ONLINE | Thursday 20 April 2023 | 4pm (Pacific Time)



Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Professor of Constructive Theology at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, will speak on the ways that Black queer bodies are used to leverage the aspirations of political candidates, church leaders, and power elites.

In this, our **16th Annual CLGS Boswell Lecture**, Dr. Lightsey will also demonstrate the ways that the big lie – propaganda – is damaging the gains made during the civil and LGBTQ rights movements. While its primary focus will be the lives of Black queer women, this lecture will spotlight why all persons who believe in freedom and liberation must see this old hatred as a danger to all humanity.

[Click Here to Register for our 2023 CLGS Boswell Lecture!](#)

Our Upcoming Online Spring 2023 Lavender Lunches

Join us for one – or more! – of these online Tuesday events (from **12:30pm to 1:30pm** Pacific Time) which feature religious leaders, activists, scholars, artists, and educators:

- 14 February 2023: **Ministry with Queer Youth** with Dr. **Ish Ruiz**
- 14 March 2023: **I Came Here Seeking A Person** with **Bill Glenn**
- 11 April 2023: **Transgender and Lutheran: A Journey of Self-Acceptance** with **Stephanie Dykes**



[Click HERE for more information on our Spring 2023 Lavender Lunches](#)

Check out these CLGS Resources!

The CLGS **Latinx Roundtable** (LRT) hosts its own website that offers a variety of resources (in Spanish,

Portuguese, and English) for Latinx faith communities. Here are some of the topics addressed by the materials found on the LRT website, ***Faith, Family, Equality***:

- A Latinx LGBTQ Curriculum for Faith Communities;
- Welcoming Your Trans Family Member: Growing As Latinx Families and Communities;
- Justice and Health: Challenges to the Latino/a Family;
- A Latinx LGBTQ Vocabulary; and
- Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible.

Click Here to access our LRT website!

Faith Family Equality
The Latinx Roundtable



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

We have recently concluded our 2022 series on suggestions for 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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