

Sacred Sexualities: Religion in LGBTQ+ Activism & Justice Movements



Warm-Up Activity

5-Minute Free-Write & Discussion

Informally respond to one or more of the following questions, drawing on prior knowledge, personal experience, your reading of Carl Bean's Oral History Interview, etc.

- 1) What does it mean for a person, community, or institution to be “religious?” What did religion mean to Carl Bean (in his heart, his identity, sense of community, etc)?
- 2) Does religion have the ability to generate positive social change?
- 3) What is one assumption or bias that you had about the relationship between religion and the LGBTQ+ community *before reading Carl Bean's story*?
 - a) How did reading Reverend Bean's narrative challenge or change your perspective?

* **Bonus Question: What new questions has this learning brought up for you?**

Essential Question

How has religion played a role in various LGBTQ+ human rights struggles?

Reverend Carl Bean

- What elements of Reverend Bean's upbringing, identities, life experiences, etc. informed his personal theology throughout his life?
- How did Reverend Bean's religious journey transform from personal beliefs and practices to building a queer church movement?
- What were the personal and historical contexts for the founding of Unity Fellowship of Christ Church? Why and how did Reverend Bean determine this community was necessary?

