



Presentation of the 2025-2026

Virginia Ramey Mollenkott Award

March 16, 2026 • 5:30 pm - 7 pm
First United Methodist Church - Chicago Temple

PROGRAM

Welcome

Marnie Warner
Chair of Board of Directors, LGBTQ Religious Archives Network

Opening Remarks

Erin Bell, MLIS
Operations Director, Gerber Hart LGBTQ+ Library & Archives

Tribute to Virginia Ramey Mollenkott

Lē Isaac Weaver
Web Developer, Christian Feminism Today
and Virginia's website administrator

**Award Presentation to
Heather Rachelle White, PhD**

Mark Bowman
Executive Director, LGBTQ Religious Archives Network

Conversation on Award-Winning Paper:

"Coming Out in the Parish Hall:

New York's Gay Movement and the

Church of the Holy Apostles, 1969-70"

Monique Moultrie, PhD
Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Georgia State University
and LGBTQ-RAN board member

Closing

Mark Bowman

The Virginia Ramey Mollenkott Award Recipient



Heather Rachelle White, PhD, is a visiting assistant professor in the gender and queer studies program at the University of Puget Sound. Trained in American religious history, Heather's research focuses on religion and LGBTQ movements for social change. Heather is the author of *Reforming Sodom: Protestants and the Rise of Gay Rights* (2015) and co-editor (with Gillian Frank and Bethany Moreton) of *Devotions and Desires: Histories of Religion and Sexuality in the Twentieth Century United States*.

White's paper, "Coming Out in the Parish Hall: New York's Gay Movement and the Church of the Holy Apostles, 1969-70" is part of a long-term research project into

LGBTQ grassroots movements and space-sharing relationships with established churches, a project that was awarded a 2025 Project Grant for Researchers from the Louisville Institute.

The paper recovers the history of the church that served as New York City's first gay community center. The parish hall of the Church of the Holy Apostles, an Episcopal congregation located in the Manhattan neighborhood of Chelsea, supplied meeting space for gay and lesbian organizations in the late 1960s and early 1970s, during the movement growth that followed the Stonewall riots of June 1969.

White is the 17th recipient of LGBTQ-RAN's award for papers since its inception in 2005 and the fourth honoree since the award was named in memory of Virginia Ramey Mollenkott in the summer of 2022. This is the only award given for outstanding scholarship in the field of LGBTQ religious history.

The Virginia Ramey Mollenkott Memorial Fund honors Dr. Mollenkott's four decades of ground-breaking and visionary scholarship as well as courageous witness on behalf of LGBTQ persons of faith. This fund endows the Virginia Ramey Mollenkott Award, an annual award for papers honoring outstanding scholarship in the field of LGBTQ+ religious history.

Your gift supports LGBTQ-RAN's efforts to preserve the history of LGBTQ religious movements around the world.

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