
Chris Glaser Collection

1955-2006

Descriptive Summary

Title: Chris Glaser Collection

Dates: 1955-2006

Collection Number: GTU 2007-1-01

Creator/Collector: Glaser, Chris; Nouwen, Henri J.M.; West Hollywood Presbyterian Church; United Presbyterian Church in the USA; Metropolitan Community Church;

Extent: 24 linear feet (25 archives boxes)

Repository: Graduate Theological Union

Abstract: Chris Glaser (1950 -) is an activist for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) rights, especially within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As writer and speaker, his topics include the church, the Bible and homosexuality: the spiritual gifts of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community; same-gender marriage: men's spirituality; Henri Nouwen; death; and the wisdom of dogs. A graduate of Yale Divinity School, along with periods as pastor of various congregations, he served as Director of the Lazarus Project, a ministry of reconciliation between the church and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in Los Angeles, funded by the Presbyterian Church.

Language of Material: English

Access

Open for researchers with the exception of some correspondence that is restricted until 2052.

Publication Rights

Intellectual property rights that belong to Chris Glaser are retained by him.

Preferred Citation

Chris Glaser Collection. Graduate Theological Union

Acquisition Information

Chris Glaser donated the collection to the Pacific School of Religion, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Berkeley, California. The collection is on permanent deposit in the Graduate Theological Union Archives.

Biography/Administrative History

Author and activist, Chris Glaser has published twelve books, including *Uncommon Calling*, *Coming Out to God*, and *Coming Out as Sacrament*, and *As My Own Soul: The Blessing of Same-Gender Marriage*. His most recent book is *The Final Deadline: What Death Has Taught Me About Life*. Chris is a frequent speaker and retreat leader across denominational boundaries throughout North America on issues ranging from sexuality to spirituality. He served as the only openly gay member of the Presbyterian Task Force to Study Homosexuality (1976-78), the majority of which voted to recommend the ordination of lesbian and gay people; that recommendation was rejected by the Presbyterian General Assembly. After graduation from Yale Divinity School in 1977, he served as director of a first-of-its-kind ministry of reconciliation between the church and the LGBT community, The Lazarus Project, located at the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church. He has worked for almost forty years to affect Presbyterian policy regarding the welcome and ordination of openly gay and lesbian ministers. He also works for full inclusion of bisexual and transgender people in the church. In recent years he has served as Spiritual Leader of the interfaith Midtown Spiritual Community in Atlanta; interim pastor of Christ Covenant MCC in Decatur, Georgia; interim pastor of MCC San Francisco; and as interim/transitional pastor of Virginia Highland Church, a Baptist and UCC congregation in Atlanta. (Adapted from The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry)

Scope and Content of Collection

Papers related to Chris Glaser's work in ministry and GLBT advocacy such as retreat talks and sermons, and administration files for church work and projects. Manuscripts of some books and articles authored by Glaser. Personal papers such as correspondence and material collected in subjects of interest.

Indexing Terms

Gays - Religious life

Church work with gays - United States

Homosexuality - Religious aspects

Gay liberation movement - Religious aspects

Ordination of gays

AIDS (Disease) - Religious aspects

Same sex marriage

Sermons, American - 20th century

Clergy - Correspondence

Clergy - Biography

Glaser, Chris

Metropolitan Community Church

Hollywood, California

San Francisco, California

Atlanta, Georgia

Clergy

[Inventory of Chris Glaser Collection](#)
