

YOUR FAITH



Rev. Manish Mishra *Cherry Hill, New Jersey*

Rev. Mishra was a featured speaker at HRC's 2009 clergy event on Capitol Hill. Formerly a clergy activist and advocate for equality in Florida, he continues his ministry pastoring a congregation in New Jersey, which recently hosted a workshop based on HRC's *Gender Identity and Our Faith Communities* curriculum.



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

YOUR FAITH

For far too long, far-right ministers have used the Bible and their pulpits as weapons against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. But millions of voices across the country are called by their faith to a new conversation – one that welcomes and affirms the dignity and worth of LGBT people as children of God. HRC's Religion & Faith Program is committed to building a world where no one has to choose between their faith and their sexuality or gender identity.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The majority of Christian Americans oppose the discriminatory **Defense of Marriage Act**, favor protecting LGBT people from discrimination and support strong anti-bullying laws.
- The majority of mainline Protestant and Jewish traditions **ordain openly LGBT clergy** and many support marriage equality.
- 56 percent of Catholics **favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry**; 52 percent of young Evangelicals support some form of legal recognition for gay and lesbian couples.
- Every two years, HRC brings more than **250 clergy leaders from every state** and over 25 faith traditions to lobby on Capitol Hill in favor of legal protections for the LGBT community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AND HOW HRC CAN HELP:

- Our website is full of curricula, liturgical resources and fresh perspectives on the Bible that will help you to **live openly in your place of worship** and move your congregation from acceptance to advocacy for LGBT social justice.
- Send your minister a link to HRC's "Out in Scripture" and "Out in Season" resources that can **help clergy leaders craft LGBT-affirming sermons**.
- Sign up for our **monthly Religion & Faith newsletter** to stay current on the latest LGBT equality developments in the faith community and ways to take action to advance justice.

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