

May 12, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

We were some of the participants in the study of religious leaders and psilocybin at Johns Hopkins and NYU. We do not speak for any other participants but ourselves.

As religious leaders, we take seriously any allegations of unethical behavior. We are aware that a Johns Hopkins IRB review revealed there was noncompliance regarding private information that “compromised the rights and welfare of the participants.” This involved transcription of data by a third-party transcription service that was not on the IRB list of approved transcription companies. We greatly appreciate the concern for our confidential information and the importance of privacy protocols, but do not consider this an obstacle to publication or the validity of this study. We approve its publication.

We are also aware that the review revealed conflicts of interest that should have been disclosed. We trust that, as the IRB review requires, the manuscript will make appropriate disclosures.

We are also aware of blogs making allegations about us as participants. We strongly reject any allegation that the below signatory-participants have been manipulated into taking leadership roles after the study that we would not have taken anyway in the course of our professional lives. We are professional religious leaders and public theologians who have decades of service and leadership experience. We are committed to our faith traditions and to truth, service, ministry, and justice. Our experiences as participants in the study are our own to interpret and share at our discretion, and no one has the right to speak for us, even when such concern is well-intentioned. We are pleased that this study is finally being published, and welcome further good-faith dialogue and debate about the role that psychedelic medicines may play in our world or in religious communities.

We are from diverse faith traditions and perspectives. We do not agree on everything, but we agree on the spiritual, ethical, and scientific importance of sharing the data from the study to which we gave our time and energy.

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