

Open & Affirming: Life Changing and Life Saving

Gateway ONA's Ninth Annual Convocation



Saturday March 7, 2020

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Registration begins at 8:30 AM

Coffee, Pastries and Fruit will be Available

Displays will be Open

Parkway United Church of Christ

2841 North Ballas Road

Saint Louis, Missouri 63131

**Registration \$20 per person/includes lunch or
\$120 per church with 6 or more attending**

If you are an Open and Affirming congregation, talking about Open and Affirming or thinking about starting the conversation, if you want to explore how to be effective allies, there will be something for you and your church. Come be in conversation with others, learn what it means to be Open and Affirming and how to fully express extravagant welcome to all God's children.

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations and other settings of the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

There will be some new workshops and some new leaders as well as some returning leaders.

This year, we welcome Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund as our preacher/keynoter. Dr. Lund is the United Church of Christ's Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. Her full biography is included with this email.

Our worship leader will be Rev. Tom Ressler, pastor at St. Paul United Church of Christ in St. Louis.

In addition to the workshops listed below we will have the Eden Theological Seminary Bookstore and other displays, as well as fellowship, food, and fun!

The morning worship will include the sacrament of Holy Communion. An offering will be received on behalf of the United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Coalition.

Additional information will be emailed to all registered participants just prior to the event.

Please pre-register for Gateway ONA's Ninth Annual Convocation. Registration deadline is February 29.

Questions? Contact: Lorin Cope, Convener, Gateway ONA at lcope@eden.edu

Workshop topics will include:

Shepherding and Supporting LGBTQIA Youth and Families

Stories from the Front: Treasuring Our Transgender Children

One to One: How to Start the Conversation

ONA 101: The ONA Process

ONA 201 – Living into Your ONA Covenant

What the Queer?: Trans, Non-binary, and Queer Identity Language

That WE Might All Be One

Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Disabilities, and LGBTQ

The ABC's of Advocacy, Belief and Commitment

Gender Inclusivity

Bible Study

LGBTQIA and Aging

Registration Form
Open & Affirming:
Life Changing and Life Saving
March 7, 2020, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Parkway United Church of Christ

Registration: \$20 per person, or \$120 total for six or more registrants from each church.

Please include a check made payable to **Gateway ONA** and send with the completed registration form to: Gateway ONA, 3510 Giles Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63116 or email it to: lcope@eden.edu.

Please use one form for each person attending the Convocation. Make as many copies of this form as you need!

Name: _____

Pronouns you use: _____
(Example: She, Her, Hers)

Address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Local Church: _____

Local Church Address: _____

Is your Church ONA: ____ **In Process:** ____ **In Discernment:** ____

Please let us know if you require: vegan: __ **vegetarian:** __ **gluten free:** __
lactose free: __

Send completed registration form(s) and a check (\$20.00 per person, or \$120.00 per church for six or more registrants) to: Gateway ONA, 3510 Giles Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63116. Registration deadline: February 29, 2020.

Tentative Convocation 2020 Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. On-site check-in and registration
Displays are in the Gathering Area
Refreshments are in the Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Gathering in the Sanctuary
Welcome!
Orientation to Parkway UCC
Greetings from the Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ
Opening Worship including keynote by Rev. Sarah Lund
- Introduction to workshop leaders and locations
- 10:30 a.m. Workshops: Session 1
- 11:30 a.m. Transition Time
- 11:40 a.m. Workshops: Session 2
- 12:40 p.m. Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Workshops: Session 3
- 2:30 p.m. Transition Time
- 2:40 p.m. Gathering Together
- 3:45 p.m. Closing Thought, Hymn, Benediction
- 4:00 p.m. End of the Convocation – Blessings to All

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

United Church of Christ Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice

Sarah is passionate about loving God, her family, and being part of faith communities. Her personal mission is to partner with others to share God's healing and hope. She is an ordained minister with standing in the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served as pastor to churches in Brooklyn, NY, Minneapolis, MN, and New Smyrna Beach, FL. Sarah also served as Regional Minister for the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ where she worked with congregations on vitality and renewal. After serving Christian Theological Seminary as Vice President for Advancement, Pastor Sarah was called in January of 2018 to serve as senior pastor of First Congregational UCC of Indianapolis, IN.

Sarah's formal education includes degrees from Trinity University (BA), Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv), Rutgers University (MSW), McCormick Theological Seminary (DMin). Sarah also completed the certificate in Fundraising Management from the IUPUI School of Fundraising.

Sarah is an active community volunteer and has served as a board member of the Indianapolis Martin Luther King Community Center and on the board of the national United Church of Christ Mental Health Network. Sarah currently serves on the leadership team for the Bethany Fellows, a national program mentoring young pastors. She is the Open and Affirming Consultant for the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Sarah received the Princeton Engle Preaching Prize in 2002 for excellence in preaching and the Bob and Joyce Dell Award for Mental Health Education from the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network in 2015 for "her outstanding authorship and leadership in breaking the silence about mental illness in family and in church and offering healing and hope." She is the author of the widely regarded book *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and Church* (Chalice Press, 2014) and blogs at sarahgriffithlund.com.

In April of 2018, Sarah was called to serve on the UCC National Staff in a part-time position with the Wholeness Advocacy Team of Justice and Local Church Ministries, serving as the newly created Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice.