



OPEN AND AFFIRMING **Convocation** March 6, 2021

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

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.

Presented 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Via Zoom By

Gateway Open & Affirming – St. Louis

Heartland Open & Affirming – Kansas City

Representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Austen Hartke is the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, a book on theology and personal narratives published by Westminster John Knox Press in 2018. From 2015 to 2018 Austen created one hundred videos for the *Transgender and Christian* YouTube series, which sought to share parts of the Bible that relate to gender identity and the lives of transgender individuals.

He is a graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution.

He has spoken at conferences all over the country and is a 2019 Bush Foundation Fellow, and is currently researching the use of online ministry as support for gender-expansive Christians. As a transgender person of faith, Austen's greatest passion is helping other trans and gender-expansive people see themselves in scripture.

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Austen Hartke



Welcome!

2021 marks the 10th Annual Open and Affirming Convocation. Like so many other events, this year's Convocation will be different from in the past, pivoting to an on-line Zoom event.

Registration: On-line registration only at: <https://onacovocation2021.eventbrite.com>. A unique e-mail address is required to register. The registration fee is \$15.00 per person. There will be no paper registrations and checks will not be accepted. A group rate will not be offered this year. Check with your local church to see if there is any reimbursement available. The deadline to register is 11:30 p.m. (CST) Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

During the registration process, you will be allowed to choose the three workshops you wish to attend. Questions about registration or workshops can be directed to: Melissa Hattman, mhattman@att.net.

Offering: The day's worship offering will go to the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. Gifts may be made at: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=UTH3GTEAB88VC.

Tentative Convocation Schedule

All times are Central Standard Time

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| 8:30 a.m. | Convocation opens on Zoom
Bring your own coffee and doughnuts |
| 9:00 a.m. | Welcome! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation to Zoom• Greetings from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ• Opening Worship with keynote/sermon by Austin Harke based on Isaiah 43: 14-19• Holy Communion – please have your communion elements with you• Introduction to workshop leaders |
| 10:15 a.m. | Break/Move to Workshops |
| 10:20 a.m. | Workshops: Session 1 |
| 11:20 a.m. | Transition Time |
| 11:30 a.m. | Workshops: Session 2 |
| 12:30 a.m. | Transition Time |
| 12:40 p.m. | Lunch: Enjoy the ONA video that will play during lunch |
| 1:15 p.m. | Workshops: Session 3 |
| 2:15 p.m. | Transition Time |
| 2:20 p.m. | Gathering Together: Sharing Highlights and Important Reflections |
| 2:50 p.m. | Closing Thoughts and Benediction |
| 3:00 p.m. | End of the Convocation – Blessings to All |