

Open & Affirming: The Time is Now!



**Saturday March 4, 2017
9:00 AM – 3:45 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 \$15 per person/includes lunch or
\$100 per church with 7 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.

This year there will be some new workshops and some new leaders as well as some returning leaders.

This year we welcome the reigning Miss Missouri, Erin O'Flaherty, the first openly gay Miss America contestant. Erin is a goodwill ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and an advocate for suicide prevention in partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Trevor Project, the nation's leading organization providing crisis intervention services to LGBTQ youth. Erin holds a B.S. in Legal Studies and hopes to eventually earn an MBA in Entrepreneurship.

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!

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

Please pre-register for Gateway ONA's Convocation. Registration deadline is February 25.

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

Workshop Titles

ONA 101 – Starting an ONA Process

ONA 201 – Living into Your ONA Covenant

Queer Folk and the Bible

Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention Services to LGBTQ Youth

Shepherding and Supporting LGBT Youth and Families

Transgender 101 – A Basic Understanding

Transgender 201 – Beyond Binary Language

Legal and Legislative Issues Effecting the LGBTQ Community

Our Whole Lives: Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Your Church

Compassionate Care by/with/for LGBTQ Persons

Registration Form
March 4, 2017 + 9:00 AM – 3:45 PM
Open & Affirming: The Time is Now!
At
Parkway United Church of Christ

Registration: \$15 per person, or \$100 total for seven 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: _____

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 (\$15.00 per person, or \$100.00 per church for seven or more registrants) to: Gateway ONA, 3510 Giles Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63116. Registration deadline: February 25, 2017.

Tentative Convocation 2017 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! - Lorin Cope
Orientation to Parkway UCC – Greg Schmelig
Greetings from the Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ – Ginny Brown Daniel
Opening Worship – Wendy Bruner
Introduction to workshop leaders and locations
- 10:30 a.m. Workshops: Session 1
- 11:30 a.m. Transition Time
- 11:45 a.m. Workshops: Session 2
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Workshops: Session 3
- 2:30 p.m. Transition Time
- 2:45 p.m. Wrap-up Conversation with Ginny Brown Daniel
- 3:30 p.m. Closing Worship
- 3:45 p.m. End of the Event – Blessings to All