

Kansas-Oklahoma Conference

A Virtual Annual Meeting Agenda

October 5-8, 2021

TUESDAY OCTOBER 5

7:30am-7:50 **Morning Prayers: led by Rev. Chris Moore**

Noon-1:00pm

Option 1: Learn About Pacific School of Religion

Come meet the President of PSR and our keynote speaker. Why does PSR say they are pushing the boundaries of theological education and just what is the stackable credentials approach to their curriculum? This is a UCC seminary that we have not explored in KO; it's time to correct that.

Option 2 Budget Hearing: This is the opportunity to get an in depth understanding of the KO budget for 2022 and the overall financial picture of the Conference. Treasurer Rich Bireta and President Bobbie Henderson will be on hand to explain the proposed budget and answer questions you have about the finances of the Conference.

6:45 Gathering Music ZOOM Room Opens

7:00 Opening Plenary

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Words of Welcome
- Declaration of a Quorum
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Introduction of Authorized Ministers New to KO
- Introduction of Keynote Speaker
- Video Pacific School of Religion

- Speaker: Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy
- Closing Worship

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

7:30am-7:50 **Morning Prayers: led by Julia Gaughan**

Noon-1:30 **Workshop: UNAFRAID to LEAD: *A Conversation for Authorized Ministers***

Led by Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy

How can we be effective leaders for all of our members when the perspectives of what is the “appropriate voice” are so varied and the needs for an alternative voice in the community is so great? Are we afraid to lead? Especially when we know that the church has to have money to pay the bills or nothing can be done? Where and how do we draw the line? This is an opportunity for authorized ministers to have a conversation about the challenges of leading in real life situations.

6:45 Gathering Music ZOOM Room Opens

7:00 **Plenary**

Plenary Call to Order

- Adoption of Rules of Procedure
- Approval of 2020 Minutes of Annual Meeting
- Approval of 2021 Minutes of the Special Called Meeting
- Election of Conference New Leadership
- Report of the Treasurer and Presentation and Adoption of the Proposed 2022 Budget
- President’s Report

8:00-9:00pm **Workshops**

Option 1: UNAFRAID in Our Communities: *Jim French and Rachael Pryor* lead a conversation focused on what it might mean to be UNAFRAID in our communities. Both living in rural areas and both deeply committed to social justice, how do they navigate the often-conflictual waters of speaking out when they know they are minority voices among friends and neighbors? What difference does our silence or our voices make? What does it mean to be UNAFRAID in our communities? Come, join the conversation.

Option 2 UNAFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP *Sarah Lund, UCC Minister for Disability*

and Mental Health leads a conversation focused on isolation and mental health needs that have only grown during the pandemic. Sarah will explore how our congregations can minister to the emotional and spiritual needs of people feeling isolated, alone, depressed, anxious, and hopeless. Learn tools that you can use to help bring hope and healing to our communities in need of care.

Evening Prayers in Workshops

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

7:30am-7:50 Morning Prayers: led by Rev. Gage Church

Noon-1:00pm Workshop: UNAFRAID to BE a BRAVE Church

Elizabeth Hagen, Author of the Book BRAVE CHURCH How You Can Have Tough Conversations with Your Congregation - How many times have, you heard let's just agree to disagree? Just be quiet if you have a divisive opinion? Or we just don't talk about that here? In times like this, God is calling the church to speak up, be brave and have tough conversations. Lives of the most vulnerable in our communities depend on our speaking up. Come explore the how to begin and lead difficult conversations with intentionality on topics such as racism, sexuality, mental illness, infertility, domestic violence and more.

6:45 Gathering Music ZOOM Room Opens

7:00 Plenary

- Call to Order
- Installation of Elected Leaders
- KO Video
- Conference Minister's Report
- Annual Meeting at Worship

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

7:30am-7:50 Morning Prayers: led by Rev. Kelly Hansen

12:00-1:30pm Noon-1:00pm Workshop: UNAFRAID in Germany

Partnership offers the opportunity to learn from one another and Rev. Eleanor McCormick's ministry in Germany with our partner the Church of Baden offers another excellent opportunity

to explore the theme of UNAFRAID. What does it look like to be unafraid in the Regional Protestant Church of Baden, Germany (Evangelische Landeskirche in Baden)? Are you curious to learn how our partnership has helped Baden to bravely ask difficult questions about race and gender? Would you like to learn how Baden's bold action on climate change and innovative new church starts might help KO address its own fears? Join us for a conversation about how our congregations can learn from one another unafraid to dream about the church of the future that is made stronger and more faithful through our growing international partnership.

Friday Evening Retirement Celebration

For those gathering in person, dinner is at 6:00 at the Wichita Marriot

For those joining the Virtual Celebration the ZOOM Room opens at 6:45; the Program will begin at 7:00.