



Official Call to the Fifty-Ninth Annual Meeting Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, United Church of Christ

October 5-11, 2020

A Virtual Gathering

This promises to be an Annual Meeting like never before so please read carefully; initial details are below. Watch eNEWS and special email blasts for updated information.

When Is Annual Meeting?

The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Annual Meeting will be called to order virtually via ZOOM on MONDAY evening October 5th at 7:00PM. Programing will continue throughout the week (see schedule below) and the meeting will close following worship on Sunday, October 11th.

Who Can "Attend" Annual Meeting?

Everyone! This Annual Meeting offers the opportunity for increased access as our KO members and friends can join from their homes. There are however, *voting delegates*.

Voting Delegates are:

- Lay delegates selected by and representing each local church with standing in the KO Conference. Each congregation has at least 2 lay delegates. Congregations with membership of more than 200 are entitled to one additional lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof.
- ALL ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers who hold membership in the Conference,
- Members of the Conference Council and all such other persons as the Bylaws shall provide.

All KO members and friends are welcome and encouraged to join the program, hear the speakers and explore how together we extend God's grace and justice to all.

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

[Register Here for the Meeting](#)

We want our virtual meeting to be as safe as possible. You help us by registering as we will provide access to our ZOOM meeting only to those who have registered.

The registration fee for **Authorized Ministers and Lay Delegates is \$100.00 per person.**

Please register by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th. For your congregations, your registration as authorized ministers and lay delegates gives access to your entire congregation to register as visitors for annual meeting at no additional cost. **But that access will not be turned on until the voting delegates have registered.**

VISITORS, K-O MEMBERS BUT NOT VOTING DELEGATES

You MUST register, but there is no additional cost to you. The registration of your pastor, lay delegates and your congregation's regular support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is sufficient to support this virtual gathering. We are glad you can join us.

VISITORS ATTENDING WHO ARE K-O PARTNERS

We appreciate your partnership and are delighted that you are joining us. We invite one person from your group to register at the full registration rate of \$100. Then please feel free to invite as many persons as you wish from your network to join the meeting to hear any speakers that they are interested in. We do ask that they register so we will know which program they plan to attend.

BUSINESS SESSION and KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Saturday, October 10th

Because the dates of Annual Meeting were announced long ago as October 9-10th, the business session and keynote remain on the formal meeting dates as previously scheduled. Consequently, all voting delegates should plan to attend the business session that begins Saturday morning at 9:00. The business session includes reports from the President and Treasurer of the Conference, elections, adoption of the 2020 budget, and an introduction of the Search Committee for a new Conference Minister. Following the business session, the keynote speaker will address the full gathering. All visitors are welcome at the business session as well.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Monday October 5

7:30-7:50AM Morning Prayers

7:00-8:30PM Opening Plenary

Tuesday, October 6

7:30-7:50AM Morning Prayers

7:00-8:30PM Special Speaker: Sarah Adams-Cornell

Resource Video Online: *Stories to Celebrate*

<https://southernspaces.org/2018/hearing-call-cultural-and-spiritual-journey-rose-mary-mcombs-maxey/>

Wednesday, October 7

7:30-7:50AM Morning Prayers: Led by German Partners

12PM NOON Black Lives Matter Crosses the Ocean: German Partnership

Thursday, October 8

7:30-7:50AM Morning Prayers

7:00-8:30PM Special Speaker: Rev. Julian DeShazier

Video Resource: *Bryan Stevenson – There’s a Direct Line From Lynching to George Floyd*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0xYslfC84I>

Friday, October 9

7:30-7:50AM Morning Prayers

7:00-8:30PM Evening Celebrations

Saturday, October 10

9:00AM Conference Morning Prayers and Business Session

10:30AM Keynote Presentation: Brian Bond, Executive Director, National PFLAG

Sunday, October 11

Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Gathers for Worship



KANSAS-OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST





We Welcome These Speakers to the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Annual Meeting

SARAH ADAMS-CORNELL

Tuesday Night 7:00-8:30PM Session

SARAH ADAMS-CORNELL is an advocate for Native American culture, education and rights. She is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and serves on the Board of Directors for Sovereign Community School where she focuses on community engagement. Sarah co-created an inter-tribal, empowerment organization called Matriarch that serves indigenous women in central and NE Oklahoma. Sarah is the President of the Board of Directors for the ACLU of Oklahoma. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Live Indigenous OK and worked alongside other Native advocates to see Indigenous Peoples' Day recognized in OKC. Sarah is a board member of The Auntie Project, Not Your Mascot, proud ally member of Central Oklahoma Two Spirit Society, serves on the OKC Citizens Committee for Community Development and was Activist in Residence at the University of Oklahoma.



Sarah has worked alongside other advocates to eliminate Land Run Reenactments and Native mascots in OKC Public Schools and co-created a program called Oklahoma History Day, a diverse and accurate account of Oklahoma history through statehood.

She attended Cottey College and the University of Oklahoma and has two daughters, Bella and Gabbie. Sarah works for her parent's company, RedLand Sheet Metal and lives in Oklahoma City.

REV. JULIAN DESHAZIER
Thursday Night 7:00-8:30PM Session
Preacher, Sunday Worship



*Thank You to Phillips Theological Seminary for Supporting Julian's Presentations**

REV. JULIAN DESHAZIER became senior minister in 2010 of University Church in Chicago, Illinois (a United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ Congregation). For nearly a decade, Julian's ministry has explored the relationship between music and faith. As an artist, he has used his unique rhythm to tell stories of deep meaning, inside and outside the church. He is a 2007 Holy Hip Hop Award winner, and has been celebrated as "Living Black History" by Urban Ministries International, while sharing stages at every major gospel music festival.

As a national speaker, advocate and emcee, Julian "J.Kwest" DeShazier has appeared on ABC, FOX, NPR and Dr. Maya Angelou's "Oprah & Friends" radio program. J.Kwest is also an Emmy Award-winning musician, featured in the video "Strange Fruit," a commemoration of the Billie Holiday song and a meditation on racial violence. The Chicago native and graduate of Morehouse College and the University of Chicago Divinity School is a 2020 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and was also recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as one of "40 Under 40" leaders in Chicago. Working with the community, Julian was instrumental in bringing a Level-1 trauma center to the Southside of Chicago.

Named by the Center for American Progress as one of "10 Faith Leaders to Watch" in 2018, he serves as the inaugural chair of the Community Advisory Council for University of Chicago Medicine; as associate director of the Office of Experiential Education at McCormick Theological Seminary; and is a former adjunct professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Julian is a regular contributor to *On Scripture* and *Sojourners*, where he is also a board member. He and his wife, Mallorie, have two fierce daughters, Dania and Genevieve. // **all social media: @PureKwest.**

**Phillips Theological Seminary has been a gracious partner at the last four K-O annual meetings, hosting delegates and visitors at breakfasts that start our Saturday events. But a virtual meeting? What better way to embody partnership than to sponsor a speaker that is also living the partnership in a local congregation. Julian is ordained UCC, but holds ordained partner standing serving a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation. He speaks the language of both of our denominations and represents well the partnership that Phillips and the K-O Conference have developed and continue to build. Thank you, Phillips, for your continued generosity and support, not only of the K-O Annual Meeting, but of our students and shared ministry in Kansas and Oklahoma.*

MR. BRIAN BOND
Executive Director, National PFLAG
Saturday Morning Session 10:30AM



BRIAN BOND is a former Obama Administration official and LGBTQ advocate with an extensive background in constituency outreach and coalition bridge building. Brian most recently served as the Coalitions Director for the Climate Action Campaign in Washington D.C., working to protect clean air and promote action to limit climate change. Prior to that, he was the Deputy CEO for the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

During the Obama Administration, he served as Deputy Director for the White House Office of Public Engagement and primary liaison for the LGBTQ community, the first to serve in that role. After the successful re-election of President Obama in 2012, he moved to the Environmental Protection Agency to work on the Administration's climate initiatives as Associate Administrator for Public Engagement and Environmental Education. Prior to these roles, he served as the Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, and is credited with expanding the success of the organization and support for LGBTQ candidates during his six-year tenure, which began in 1997.

Brian is a Missouri native and has a degree in Public Administration from Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.



PROGRAM NOTES

The virtual world is new, newer for some than others. But no one likes to spend HOURS in front of a screen. So the planning committee has tried to keep the sessions shorter, but engaging, knowing that interests and availability vary. We invite everyone, delegates and visitors, to attend as often as you can. Delegates need to plan on being present on Saturday morning for business session.

There are videos listed as Resources. These videos are available for you to view anytime; now in fact. They are related to the area about which the speaker they are listed under is speaking, but the speaker is not speaking specifically ABOUT that particular video. The video is just additional “food for thought.”

The Saturday Morning Session begins with business at 9:00, but the keynote address with Brian Bond will begin at 10:30. If business is completed early, the plenary will take a break and resume at 10:30.

The Sunday Worship is designed to be shared in all KO local congregations. After MUCH discussion, the decision was made to pre-record the service and send it to each local church so that each congregation can use the service at their normal worship time. That UCC, autonomy is strong! The committee encourages all of our congregations to join together in worship by using the service planned by the worship committee for Annual Meeting Sunday. We can't be physically together, but this is one way we can worship together in spirit.

Be Sure and Watch for Program Changes in ENEWS or Email Blasts.



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