



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

A welcoming community of faith
in the heart of the Twin Cities



2016 Series: Trauma and Its Aftermath

Sponsored by First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Minneapolis

***Trauma and Its Aftermath:
MORAL INJURY AND MORAL MEANING MAKING***

FRIDAY, MAY 13:

6:00 pm	Registration Open	Gathering Space
	Resource Area Open (until 6:45 pm)	Children's Space
	Safe Space/Meditation Room	Timothy Meeting Room
6:45 pm	Gathering & Centering Leader: Tim Frantzich	South Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Welcome and Introduction Rev. Laurie P. Feille Senior Pastor, First Christian Church	South Sanctuary
	Opening Keynote Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock Director, The Soul Repair Center <i>Moral Injury, Soul Repair, and Congregations</i>	South Sanctuary
8:15 pm	Centering and Closing Leader: Tim Frantzich	South Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MAY 14:

8:00 am	Registration Open	Gathering Space
	Resource Area Open	Children's Space
	Safe Space/Meditation Room Open	Timothy Meeting Room
8:30 am	Gathering & Centering Leader: Tim Frantzich	South Sanctuary
8:45 am	Morning Keynote Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock <i>Trauma and Moral Injury</i>	South Sanctuary
9:45 am	Responsive Reflection & Centering Leader: Tim Frantzich	South Sanctuary



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10:00 am	BREAK	Gathering Space
10:15 am	WORKSHOP BLOCK #1:	
	Veterans and Their Addictions Presenter: Dr. Lanny Kuester, Author <i>Secrets of the Grand Canyon</i>	North Sanctuary
	<p>As a way of coping with chronic pain, emotional trauma or moral injury, many veterans have become chemically dependent on alcohol and drugs, including opioid addiction. In addition, many veterans have also become addicted to other risky behaviors including sexual addictions, eating disorders, pornography, and violence.</p> <p>This breakout session will help participants discover a wide variety of addictions, the stages of addiction, and then explore options for healing and recovery.</p>	
	Military Sexual Trauma & Healing Presenter: Dr. Mic Hunter, Psychologist and Author <i>Honor Betrayed: Sexual Abuse in America's Military</i> This workshop will cover how the military culture affects victims, common misunderstandings concerning MST, and ways to facilitate healing.	Garden Sanctuary
	Open Forum Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock	South Sanctuary
11:15 am	BREAK	Gathering Space
11:30 am	Resiliency and Survivorship Presenters: Catherine Madison, Author <i>The War Came Home With Him</i> Paul Riedner, Executive Director Veteran Resilience Project	South Sanctuary
12:15 pm	LUNCH	Gathering Space
1:30 pm	Gathering Music & Announcements Leader: Tim Frantzich	South Sanctuary



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1:45 pm

WORKSHOP BLOCK #2:

Grief and Ritual

Presenter: Dr. Lanny Kuester

Lydia Meeting Room

Veterans typically carry a rucksack full of grief and loss. They often experience physical injury, loss of purpose, the death or suicide of friends, the dissolution of marriage. The experience of war has led many to a deep sense of betrayal by their country and their leaders. How do you help veterans and their families cope with such grief?

This session not only explores the grief that veterans often carry, but also offers a number of rituals that can help veterans let go of some of their most profound and troubling grief.

Spirit and Trauma:

Garden Sanctuary

Witnessing Trauma Through Reflection and Art

Presenters:

Paula Hart, President & CEO

Volunteers of America – Minnesota & Wisconsin

Wendy Smith, Principal, VOA High School

This interactive workshop explores the use of circles, visual art, and poetry as expressive pathways for authentically witnessing trauma. The framework is built on Shelly Rambo's reexamination of the death and resurrection of Jesus from the perspective of Holy Saturday—a place of "in between"—seeking a theology that addresses the experience of living in the aftermath of trauma (from Rambo's book *Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining*).

Come to this workshop prepared to participate in a circle (what is offered is by invitation, not demand), spend time in reflection, and create visual art (you do not need to be an "artist" to do this!). We hope you will walk away with a framework understanding the importance and role of witnessing trauma in your own life and in the lives of others.



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The Challenge for the Church to Care for Returning Veterans

North Sanctuary

Presenters:

Dr. Amy Blumenshine, Coming Home Collaborative

Rev. David Thompson, Chaplain (CDR), U.S. Navy (Retired)

The faith community has several unique and significant roles for those seeking to mend the torn fabric of trust, while spiritually growing into “right relationships” after war exposure. The church has a long (if sometimes dusty) history of helping people with the moral injury. Simply participating in healthy congregational life can be an opportunity to have a corrective experience of love and care and forgiveness amongst trustworthy people.

The church, however, has a much larger responsibility in working towards the healthy character and conscience and souls of veterans and their families and their communities. The challenge of putting an appropriate moral frame around one’s military experiences is far too much for any one person or family to do on their own; it requires collective moral deliberation.

Discussion will revolve around encouraging church leadership and those engaged in congregational care ministries to be much more proactive in educating congregations to understand returning veterans’ needs and the moral challenges they faced while in service. We will discuss the need to design and develop congregational outreach efforts to veterans, exploring ways to identify veterans in the community and engage them in transformational relationships to assist them with a wide range of adjustments.

3:00 pm

BREAK

3:15 pm

**Panel Discussion:
What Does Transformation Look Like?**

South Sanctuary

Panel Moderator: Dr. Amy Blumenshine

Panelists:

Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock

Dr. Lanny Kuester

Catherine Madison

Rev. David Thompson



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4:00 pm

Closing Keynote
Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock
How Does Recovery Happen?

South Sanctuary

4:45 pm

Closing Ceremony
Leader: Tim Frantzich

South Sanctuary

Thank you so much for attending!
Stay tuned for more information on our next conference
Mental Illness and the Faith Community's Response
Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund, Author
Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and Church
November 2016