



# 2016 Minnesota Open and Affirming Gathering

## Registration and Information Packet

Please join colleagues and friends from the Minnesota Conference for the 2016 Open and Affirming Gathering prior to the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting in June. This event is a time for lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, and queer people of faith as well as allies and friends to gather in community.

We will meet on the campus of the College of St. Benedict on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This year, the national Open and Affirming Coalition will be coming to Minnesota for their Annual Meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. We are invited to join with national colleagues for the Coalition banquet on Thursday evening followed by a social time sponsored by the Minnesota Conference ONA team. Light refreshments will be provided and there will be a cash bar available. Accommodations are available for single or double rooms for Thursday evening. Those registering for lodging for this event and the Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting will be able to stay in the same rooms if requested. On Friday morning, we will have one open discussion period followed by a keynote address from **Andy Lang**, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition, on intersectionality in justice movements.

In order to allow for maximum flexibility, full event or Friday only registration is available. Early bird registration closes on May 6<sup>th</sup> and event registration closes on May 29<sup>th</sup>.



***Andy Lang** has 18 years of experience as a communications professional in the United Church of Christ. He was a daily newspaper reporter and a Congressional public-relations specialist in Washington, DC, before moving to Cleveland to join the UCC's national communications staff in 1993. Andy built the UCC's first churchwide website at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) in 1994 and led the church's national web ministry until 2004. Andy has been the Coalition's executive director since April 2011: in that capacity, he leads the UCC's Open and Affirming Program. His passion is to reach the nearly 4,000 UCC congregations that have not yet adopted an ONA covenant. He is a member of [Amistad Chapel UCC](#) in downtown Cleveland, OH.*

## Schedule

**Thursday, June 9** (Full Schedule and map of exact locations will be emailed on June 1<sup>st</sup>)

5:00 – 6:00 PM Registration

6:00 – 9:00 PM ONA Coalition Banquet (\$35 Separate Registration Fee Required)

9:00 – 11:00 PM Social Time (cash bar)

**Friday, June 8**

8:00–9:00 AM Registration

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 – 10:15 AM Keynote Address by Andy Lang

10:15 – 10:30 AM Break

10:30 – 11:30 AM Dialogue and Networking Session

11:30 AM – Noon Worship and Closing

Registration is available on-line at [www.uccmn.org/annualmeeting](http://www.uccmn.org/annualmeeting) or by postal mail using the form below. Credit or debits cards only accepted on-line. Registration which requires lodging and/or meals **MUST** be received by **Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**Name**

**Local Church (include city)**

**Street Address**

**City/State**

**Zip**

**Phone (include area code)**

**Email**

**Registration** (check one) \_\_\_\_\_ Full event \$20 (Please note that the registration for the Thursday night Coalition banquet must be made at the link on the following page and costs an additional \$35)

**Meals** \_\_\_\_\_ Friday Breakfast (\$10)

**Lodging** \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday Single room (\$46)

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday Double room (\$34.50) Preferred roommate:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Check here if you have registered for the Open and Affirming Coalition Gathering or the Annual Meeting and wish to keep the same room.**

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send Form & Check to: UCC MN Conference (Memo: 2016 ONA Gathering), 122 West Franklin Ave, #323, Minneapolis, MN 55404

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# OPEN AND AFFIRMING

## **Join us in Minnesota for National ONA Gathering June 7-9, 2016!**

**Now that marriage equality is the law of the land, what's next for the Open and Affirming movement in the United Church of Christ? "ONA NEXT" is the theme of this year's National ONA Gathering June 7-9 at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN.**

"Marriage equality was a milestone on our journey towards justice, but not the end of the journey," says Andy Lang, the Open and Affirming Coalition's executive director. "There's plenty of work for ONA churches in the years to come: challenges but also exciting opportunities for ministry, mission, advocacy and evangelism."

Gathering begins at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, and ends at 5 p.m. Thursday, June 9. Social activities will be available Thursday night for participants who are leaving Friday morning.

You may find more information and details about the Open and Affirming Coalition Gathering at [ONA Coalition Gathering Registration](#)

## **2016 Pride Participation**

This year, the ONA team will sponsor participation for all Minnesota Conference churches in the Twin Cities Pride parade and we would like to support other statewide Pride celebrations. Please reserve the following dates and times (subject to change by event organizers):

East Central Minnesota Pride (Pine City) – June 5<sup>th</sup>

Twin Cities Pride (Minneapolis) – July 25 – 26<sup>th</sup>

Rochester Pridefest – July 15 – 17<sup>th</sup>

Pride in the Park (Fargo-Moorhead) – August 20<sup>th</sup>

Bayfront Pride Festival (Duluth) – September 3<sup>rd</sup>

South Central Minnesota Pride (Mankato) – September 10<sup>th</sup>

St Cloud Pride in the Park – September 17<sup>th</sup>

Sioux Falls Pride Festival – Date TBD

Queer People of Color Pride Festival (St. Paul) – Date TBD