

REGISTRATION FORM



____ Early Registration \$35 before
January 6, 2012
____ Late/Same Day Registration \$50

Includes lunch and refreshments

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Congregation: _____

Vegan/Vegetarian? Yes No

Food Allergy? _____

Special Accommodations? _____

Mail Registration and payment to:
South Central Conference
9022 Long Point Road
Houston, TX 77055-4610
(713) 647-9204 or (800) 565-5025



SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Church of the Savior
3402 Little Elm Trail
Cedar Park (Austin), TX 78613

**A Celebration of
South Central Conference
Open and Affirming Congregations**

Worship
Recognition
Workshops
Fellowship



WORKSHOP 1:
EVANGELISM & THE
LGBT COMMUNITY
Mr. Andy Lang



WORKSHOP 2:
YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL
Rev. Marc Blakesley



WORKSHOP 3:
WE'RE ONA, NOW WHAT?
Rev. Dan DeLeon



Schedule

- 9:30 Registration & Refreshments
10:00-10:40 Worship
10:45-11:15 Conversation with Andy Lang
11:20-12:00 Small group discussion and sharing with plenary group
12:00-12:55 Lunch (sharing ONA and congregation news)
1:00-1:55 Workshop Session I
2:00-2:55 Workshop Session II
3:00-3:10 Break
3:15-3:30 Closing worship

Recommended Hotels:

- Extended Stay America-Austin Northwest
(512) 258-3365
Holiday Inn Express-Austin Northwest
(512) 249-8166

Keynote Speaker

Workshop 1: "Evangelism & the LGBT Community"

If "evangelism" means "sharing the Gospel of Christ," ONA churches have a unique opportunity to build relationships with the local LGBT community. An ONA covenant does not automatically ensure that LGBT seekers--and their families--will find their way through a congregation's front door. This workshop will explore some of the points of sensitivity churches should understand as they plan for outreach with their LGBT neighbors, and will share some practical tips on effective communication and witness.

Presenter: **Andy Lang** is executive director of the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns. After nearly two decades as a journalist and professional communicator, Andy joined the UCC's national staff in 1993, where he served as a leader in the church's communications ministry until 2010.

Workshop 2: "You Have A Story to Tell"

It is a proven fact that inclusion of LGBT folks in the church is more a matter of heart than head. Telling your story to people with an open heart is going to more folks into a spirit of welcome than any debate of scripture or statistical analyst. This workshop will help you tell your personal story of why LGBT inclusion in the church is important to you and/or why you advocate for full inclusion in society. The power of connecting to personal history in clear and vivid ways can be in done with three points in three minutes.

Presenter: **Rev Marc Blakesley** is an Open and Affirming (ONA) consultant primarily with churches of the Minnesota Conference UCC. For over 15 years, he has been helping congregations through the process of becoming ONA and in the living into their ONA commitment. A graduate of the Yankton College School of Theology, Blakesley is the founder and principal consultant of *SPECIAL FOLK*, working with faith communities specifically in the areas of liturgy and preaching. Marc is a writer of liturgy and hymn texts, a singer and story-teller, a preacher and visualist.

Workshop 3: "We're ONA. Now What?"

This workshop will focus on the intentional steps that Open and Affirming churches might take toward living out the ONA identity that comes with adopting an ONA statement. Looking at church life through the spiritual lens of hospitality, the workshop explores how our ONA congregations might embrace new understandings of offering God's extravagant welcome to all.

Presenter: **Rev Dan De Leon** is pastor of Friends Congregational UCC in College Station, Texas. This workshop stems from his doctoral dissertation on the same topic.

**For more information, contact:
Cheryl von Ehrenkrook at (682)224-4773
or (817) 475-3308 or cheryl-sccucc@att.net**