



# BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES OPEN AND AFFIRMING

## A Workshop with Andy Lang

*Saturday October 13, 2018*

Ascension UCC  
1700 West Main Street  
Jeffersonville, PA 19403

Registration: \$15.00

Register at:

<https://psecandylang.eventbrite.com>

### Schedule

**9:30 Registration/Fellowship**

**10:00 Workshop I**

Why and How? Fear of conflict is often the reason churches hesitate to take their first steps towards an ONA commitment, and a poorly-planned or rushed ONA process can divide a congregation. But a carefully-planned ONA process can build consensus and rekindle a congregation's passion for the Gospel. Instead of dividing the congregation, a journey towards an ONA covenant can deepen relationships and open up new possibilities for evangelism, mission and ministry.

**12:00 Lunch**

**1:00 Workshop II**

Best Practices for ONA Evangelism and Membership Growth An ONA covenant can help congregations grow in numbers and energy—but only if the church's commitment to LGBTQ inclusion is public and visible. This workshop shares the experience of growing ONA churches, with tips for marketing, advertising, communications and advocacy

**Sponsored by the Rev. Dr. James Tanis Educational Endowment**

**Andy Lang, Executive Director of Open & Affirming Coalition**



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 2010: in that capacity, he leads the UCC's Open and Affirming Program. His passion is to reach the nearly 3,700 UCC congregations that have not yet adopted an ONA covenant. He is a member of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Shaker Heights, OH. Andy's pronouns of choice are "he, him, his."