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## **Conflict Transformation Skills for the Classroom: A Faculty Inservice Workshop**

Educators face conflict at all levels. Disputes between students erupt on the playground and invade the classroom. Then there are the inevitable conflicts between teachers and students, to say nothing of the occasional visit from an angry parent.

A classroom atmosphere with bad feelings, lack of trust, and unresolved or suppressed conflicts is not conducive to learning. Nor is it an especially pleasant place to teach. But we are in a unique position. We can make a change, and the time to begin is now. For in this age of “back to basics,” it is becoming increasingly clear to more administrators, teachers, parents, and students that we have neglected one of the most basic skills of all.

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center offers a unique faculty in-service workshop in conflict transformation skills that equips teachers to deal with conflict in a more positive way, while also teaching children new ways of resolving their disputes.

One typical training schedule for the workshop is:

**8:30-10:00 – Understanding Conflict in the School**

- **Introduction: The Nature and Role of Conflict**
- **Types and Causes of Classroom Conflict**
- **Sample Lessons for Overcoming Causes for Classroom Conflict**

**Understanding Your Own Style of Response to Conflict**

10:00-10:15 – Break

**10:15-11:30 – Skills for Managing Conflict**

The workshop involves a combination of lectures, personal exercises, role-plays, audiovisuals, and large and small group discussion. During the break participants will also have an opportunity to survey curricular resources and other literature on the subject.

The facilitator for such a program would be either Richard Blackburn, LMPC Executive Director, Victoria Wilcox, Assistant Director, or Bob Williamson, who serves with LMPC in an Adjunct Faculty role. In addition to their broad knowledge of the scholarly literature in the area of classroom conflict, their training and experience as mediators makes them uniquely qualified to lead conflict transformation workshops.

**Schools interested in exploring the possibility of hosting a workshop, can contact the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center at the above address or phone number.**