About the Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process

Faculty

Richard Blackburn is Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. He has broad experience as a trainer, mediator, and consultant with conflicted churches and their leaders. The confrontational mediation model he developed represents a transformational approach, placed within the context of Bowen family systems theory. For several years, he attended Edwin Friedman’s Postgraduate Clergy Seminar in Family Emotional Process in Bethesda, MD. Richard has also participated in the Postgraduate Program in Bowen Family Systems Theory and its Applications at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family in Washington, D.C. He is an ordained Mennonite minister.

Bill Blank, LMPC Associate Director, is an ordained minister in the Mennonite Church and has served as a pastor and interim pastor for a number of years. He has participated in the Postgraduate Program in Bowen Family Systems Theory and its Applications at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family. Prior to joining the LMPC staff, he was a regular participant in LMPC’s training events, including: Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process, Advanced Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process, and our Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders. Benefitting from his years of pastoral experience and ministering to churches in transition, Bill also has experience in consulting with conflicted churches, facilitating LMPC’s full-scale confrontational mediation process, and providing coaching for pastors from a family systems orientation since joining the staff.

Concepts To Be Studied

- Triangles
- Differentiation of Self
- Nuclear Family Emotional System and Family Projection Process
- Multigenerational Transmission Process
- Sibling Position
- Societal Regression
- Emotional Cutoff

The Clergy Clinic will help participants understand how each concept has implications for one’s family system, as well as operations as functioning as a leader within a congregational system.

Comments from Others

“This is some of the best time and money I’ve spent in continuing education. I am becoming a healthier pastor, daughter, sister, wife, mother. It has helped me look honestly at myself, from a place of caring and safety; and to work on myself.” — Presbyterian Pastor

“I wish I had done this 20 years ago. I would have been far more confident in managing myself in congregational systems and avoided a lot of pain.” — United Methodist Pastor

“It saved my ministry; I would not still be a pastor, if I hadn’t attended Clergy Clinic.” — Presbyterian Pastor

Tuition

Tuition is $975 for the entire series for registrations received prior to September 19, 2016. The fee is $1,075 for registrations received after that date. Cancellations are subject to a non-refundable administration fee of $100, if we receive notification prior to October 1, 2016, or half of the registration fee, if notified prior to October 10, 2016. Afterward, there will be no refunds or credit for missed sessions, since family of origin group leaders will have already been hired. To register, return the form with full payment, or register online by going to, www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/720852

Registration Form

For Further Information

Write: Lombard Mennonite Peace Center 101 West 22nd Street, Suite 206 Lombard, IL 60148
E-mail: admin@LMPeaceCenter.org
Web Site: www.LMPeaceCenter.org
Call: (630) 627-0507
Fax: (630) 627-0519

Send me additional information about the Clergy Clinic about Bowen family systems theory and church leadership that can be held in my church.

Send me information about workshops on family systems theory and church leadership that can be held in my church.

Enclose payment of $975 for the series ($1,075 after 9/19/16). Make checks payable (in US funds) to LMPC.

Other Clergy Clinic Option

A third Clergy Clinic group will meet in San Diego, CA. The tuition is higher for the west coast group in order to cover travel expenses for LMPC faculty. Dates for the San Diego group are:

- December 5-7, 2016
- March 19-21, 2017
- May 22-24, 2017

For further information: www.LMPeaceCenter.org

To register online please select the event you wish to register for at www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/720852

Other Email ______________________________________
Family Emotional Process

Since the publication of *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*, by Dr. Edwin Friedman, pastors and other clergy have recognized the importance of understanding Bowen family systems theory as it relates to congregational systems.

Dr. Murray Bowen understood families as emotional systems impacted by two key factors: the level of anxiety within the system and the level of differentiation of family members. As a student of Bowen, Dr. Edwin Friedman saw the relevance of Bowen's ideas for religious congregations and their leaders.

With today's rising level of anxiety in society and its resulting impact on families, there is little doubt that such anxiety will impact the church with increasing intensity in the years ahead. The resulting elevation of pressures within congregations and the increasing demands which that places on clergy make it imperative that leaders step back occasionally from the fray to assess their own capacity for managing themselves in a calmer, more differentiated way.

The Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process is designed to enhance the ability of participants to function as self-differentiated leaders within their own ministry setting. It will provide a safe forum for processing challenging situations in one's ministry, while also facilitating reflection on a way of thinking about the human condition which has implications for all aspects of life.

**Session Format**

The Clergy Clinic meets three times per year for three successive days each time, thus providing nine full days of reflection on the concepts of family emotional process. The format follows the basic themes articulated in Edwin Friedman's *Generation to Generation*, with reflection on the minister's three interlocking families: the minister's own family, the parishioner family, and the congregation as a family.

The first day will be didactic, focusing on the concepts of Bowen family systems theory, as they apply to both family and congregational systems. The other mornings will also be didactic, with presentations by faculty as well as videotape input from Murray Bowen, Edwin Friedman, and others. Didactic sessions will also include periodic reflection from a biblical perspective on the concepts being studied.

On Tuesday afternoon each time we divide into small groups providing participants an opportunity to explore their own family of origin under the guidance of an experienced family systems practitioner. The final afternoon each time will be given to the presentation of case studies by participants from their own congregational or other ministry setting, followed by opportunity for feedback, discussion, and consultation.

The program has been designed around several three-day visits, rather than a one-time intensive effort, because we have found that family systems thinking cannot be absorbed simply by attending a single workshop or reading a book. It is necessary to alternate the learning experience with personal efforts to integrate family systems thinking into one's own functioning. Given such an effort over an extended period of time, it is possible to raise one's level of differentiation and, thereby, positively impact one's leadership capabilities in all areas of ministry.

**Who Will Benefit**

- Pastors and Interim Pastors.
- Judicatory Officials: Bishops, District Superintendents, Presbytery Executives, etc.
- Church Consultants.
- Leaders of Religious Communities and Other Church-Related Organizations.
- Congregational lay leaders are welcome as well.

“...So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” (Romans 12:5)