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## Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center provides unique programs in Christian peacemaking to churches, schools, and community groups. One of LMPC's more popular programs available to groups is an all-day workshop in conflict transformation suitable for church retreat days, Saturday workshops, or as part of a weekly adult education series. This workshop would also be appropriate for Christian schools to consider for a faculty in-service program or retreat.

One possible outline for an all-day workshop would be:

9:00-10:30 – **Introduction: The Nature and Role of Conflict**

**Conflict in the New Testament: Finding Renewal in Conflict**

10:30-10:45 – Break

10:45-12:00 – **Self-Assessment Exercise: Understanding and Improving Your Own Style of Response to Conflict**

12:00-1:00 – Lunch

1:00-2:30 – **Interpersonal Peacemaking Skills: How to be Effective When People are Angry**

2:30-2:45 – Break

2:45-4:30 – **Congregational Conflict: Understanding Conflict in Groups and How to Manage It**

Other topics that can be addressed, depending on the nature and desires of the hosting group, include:

- **Conflict Transformation Skills for the Family**
- **Conflict Transformation Skills for the Classroom**
- **An Introduction to Mediating Interpersonal Conflict**

The facilitator for such a program would be either Richard Blackburn, LMPC Executive Director, or Bill Blank, LMPC Associate Director. In addition to their long involvement in issues related to Christian peacemaking and conflict transformation in churches, their training in family systems theory makes them uniquely qualified to lead conflict transformation workshops. Finally, in order to continue the educational process after the workshop, LMPC books on conflict transformation and other Christian peacemaking concerns can be made available to participants.

**Groups interested in exploring the possibility of hosting a workshop can contact the peace center at the above address or phone number.**