Books Available from LMPC:

Conflict Transformation Skills, Church Management, Family Systems
Theory, Peacemaking Theology, Sexual Abuse and Misconduct

**Conflict Transformation Skills:**


Focuses on the unique methods individual cultures use in resolving conflict – on the frequent need to modify our own assumptions about right and wrong ways of dealing with conflict when in another culture.


The complicated issues of Christian forgiveness and reconciliation and their real-world applications are explored from a variety of theological and theoretical perspectives.


An excellent resource for senior high school and adult Christian education classes, this workbook's ten chapters outline basic communication and conflict transformation skills. Includes a guide for leaders.


A straightforward, universally applicable method for negotiating personal and professional disputes without getting taken – and without getting nasty. Outlines the theory of interest-based bargaining.


The book provides a foundation for a training workshop in conflict transformation, as well as offering additional reading for participants of such workshops. Beginning with the basics of conflict transformation, the core of the manual presents the various stages in the mediation process with clarity and some depth.


The author shares insight from years of work in international mediation and deep spiritual reflection on the task of reconciliation. From personal experiences and the biblical story, he finds God seeking reconciliation throughout history.


A clearly articulated statement that offers a hopeful and workable approach, laying out the vision for conflict transformation, as opposed to conflict resolution.


*The Roleplay Book* is a resource for trainers in mediation and other forms of conflict transformation. It provides a valuable resource for graduates of LMPC’s *Mediation Skills Training Institute* who want to keep their skills finely tuned.

A practical guide to understanding and transforming conflict based on biblical and Anabaptist principles. Over twenty noted authors shaped by many experiences and cultures tell of lessons taught by walking conflict's holy ground. Includes a chapter on *Conflict in Congregations* co-authored by Richard Blackburn, LMPC Executive Director.


A book for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the ways that worship intertwines with the life and health of a congregation explores the issue of worship in the context of three main types of difficulty congregations can face: times of crisis, transition, and conflict.

**Church Management:**


Describes successful evaluation models, focusing on the need for pastoral and congregational evaluations.


A revised and updated edition of *Critical Moment in Ministry: A Change of Pastors*, which suggests that the time of transition from one pastoral leader to the next pastor affords a unique opportunity for change of the congregation itself, not just of its pastor.


Focuses on issues for pastors in new settings: role clarity, getting along with people, taking care of self, etc.


Stories and learnings from pastors in every stage of separation from a congregation, whether caused by a new call, a change of vocation, retirement, conflict, or the death of a church.

**Family Systems Theory:**


Presents an insightful and balanced view to the question of how to deal with difficult behavior in congregations.


Encompassing the breadth and depth of Dr. Murray Bowen’s contributions to the field of family therapy, this compilation of Dr. Bowen’s published articles gathers the development of his thinking into one volume.


Presents the diversity and breadth of Bowen theory applications in various relationship systems across a broad spectrum of professions, disciplines, cultures, and nations; provides three chapters of never-before-published material by Dr. Bowen.


This scholarly yet personal integration of Bowen Family Systems Theory into life and ministry can engage readers in their own versions of working on differentiation of self. Those who are just learning about the theory, as well as seasoned advocates doing the hard yet rewarding work of living out these principles, will find refreshment and encouragement in these pages.
Friedman, Edwin H.  

A polished edition of the book Friedman left incomplete at his death in 1996. Edited by Margaret Treadwell and Edward Beal, it offers ideas Friedman developed after publication of his well-known *Generation to Generation*.

Friedman, Edwin H.  

Analogies in story form which look at family systems concepts in an entertaining way.

Friedman, Edwin H.  

Provides an important family systems perspective on church dynamics. Sections focus on families within the congregation, the congregation as a system, and the clergy family.

Friedman, Edwin H.  

A collection of Friedman’s essays that had been previously published in various journals or presented at various conferences, rich in wisdom and humor.

Friedman, Edwin H.  

A collection of writings – most previously unpublished – from the acclaimed writer, rabbi, and therapist regarding personal growth, development, and fulfillment.

Gerson, Randy and McGoldrick, Monica and Petry, Sueli.  

Widely used by both family therapists and all health care professionals, the genogram is a graphic way of organizing the mass of information gathered during a family assessment and finding patterns in the family system for more targeted treatment.

Gilbert, Roberta M.  

Based on Bowen family systems theory, this book shows parents how to build healthy connections with children. Practical examples and stories illustrate familiar situations and concerns.

Gilbert, Roberta M.  

This book is a blueprint to better relationships that tells how the principles of family systems theory can be used to enhance relationships in all arenas of life.

Herrington, J., Creech, R., and Taylor, T.  
**The Leader’s Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Congregational Transformation.** 2016. Pp. 186. $11.00.

Examines the functioning of churches and their leaders in light of family systems theory and biblical principles. Focuses on the challenges of doing – of taking principled action in the presence of relationship pressures.

Kerr, Michael E.  

This book applies the principles of Bowen theory to clinical narratives, personal systems work, and current psychological and sociological situations. This book has been described as nothing less than a “21st century masterpiece of Bowen theory and therapy.”

Kerr, Michael E. and Bowen, Murray.  

Comprehensively presents Bowen’s principles for assessing families, enabling the family therapist to organize data and therapy decisions.

Kerr, Michael E.  

Gives an overview of the eight basic concepts of Bowen family systems theory.

The author explains how the use of genograms (family trees) can bring to light a family’s history of suicide estrangement, alliance, or divorce, revealing intergenerational patterns that prove more than coincidental.


Provides an insight into workplace dynamics from a family systems perspective.


Provides an overview of Bowen family systems theory, while challenging pastors to do their own family of origin work, if they are to function effectively as leaders in the congregation.


A thorough and pastoral approach to Bowen family systems theory and its use in marital counseling: both practical and rich in theory.


Offers an understanding of how congregations function emotionally, as well as practical leadership ideas.


Using Bowen systems theory, discusses polarization in North American society, how a community can come together to solve its problems and how leaders can bring about positive change.


Edited papers from a conference hosted by the Voyagers, a group of clergy that meet twice a year to work on their functioning as leaders.


The author explores the relationship between the challenges of change and our own responses to new ideas and experiences.


Suggests ways for leaders to remain calm in the face of anxiety, to be effective in difficult times.


Helpful suggestions gleaned from family systems theory for stewardship of church systems. A theologically grounded guide to optimal congregational health in the service of the church’s life and mission.


Examines the implications of family systems theory on congregational life and clergy-lay relationships.


Examines how mature leaders can deal with others’ immaturity, reactivity, and other upsetting emotionality.

Assembles a stellar array of essays, by some of the top Bowen theory practitioners, illuminating a key concept of systems thinking.


Leading experts in family therapy and pastoral care discuss how faith beliefs and practices can foster personal and relational well-being, how religious conflict or a spiritual void can contribute to distress, and what therapists can gain from reflecting on their own spiritual journeys.


Compilation of five papers that were published in two journals explores the theory of the family developed by Dr. Murray Bowen. The papers explore how beliefs—worldview, philosophies, values, goals, principles—although emerging in an individual brain, can be regarded as a product of the family unit that have a function for the family.

**Peacemaking Theology:**


Using story, analysis, and scriptural reflection, *Set Free* offers a valuable resource towards dismantling racism.


A captivating presentation of the themes found in Girard’s other works—mimetic rivalry and contagion, the single victim mechanism and scapegoating—made accessible to the general reader.


The authors suggest how to develop “peacemaking reflexes:” how churches “can learn to handle conflict well;” and how to cultivate vulnerability and humility, two essential “attitudes of peacemakers.”


The author surveys core elements of Anabaptist/Mennonite perspectives on theology, ecclesiology, and discipleship. This is an honest and helpful introduction to historic Anabaptist convictions and contemporary Mennonite understandings.

**Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace.** The Palestine Israel Network of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, 2011. Pp. 49. $10.00.

Steadfast Hope challenges common myths and misperceptions about the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, presents a compelling snapshot of the present situation on the ground, and offers a guide to the challenges that lie ahead in the quest for peace.

**Sexual Abuse and Misconduct:**


Offers a compelling collection of essays from experts who have consulted, taught, or written about clergy misconduct. Written for the pastor who must follow in the wake of prior misconduct, the book is also helpful for denominational officials and lay leaders of congregations that have experienced the misconduct of a pastor.
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