

About the Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process

Schedule

The **Clergy Clinic** meets three times each year for three successive days each time for a total of nine days. Participants choose one of the two groups to attend:

Group A:
October 25-27, 2021
February 14-16, 2022
May 2-4, 2022

Group B:
November 8-10, 2021
March 7-9, 2022
May 23-25, 2022

Mondays: 10/25, 2/14, 5/2; or 11/8, 3/7, 5/23

9:00 a.m. – Faculty Input
12:15 p.m. – Lunch Break
1:30 p.m. – Faculty Input
4:30 p.m. – Adjournment

Tuesdays: 10/26, 2/15, 5/3; or 11/9, 3/8, 5/24

9:00 a.m. – Input: Bowen Systems Theory
12:00 p.m. – Lunch Break
1:00 p.m. – Family of Origin Groups
4:30 p.m. – Adjournment

Wednesdays: 10/27, 2/16, 5/4; or 11/10, 3/9, 5/25

9:00 a.m. – Input: Emotional Process and Congregational Systems
12:00 p.m. – Lunch Break
1:15 p.m. – Congregational Case Study Groups
4:30 p.m. – Conclusion

Zoom Format

The *Clergy Clinic* will be held online through Zoom video conferencing. Zoom offers opportunity for participant interaction in small and large groups, including family of origin groups. Participants will be expected to have a basic proficiency in Zoom and a device with both a camera and a microphone to log into Zoom. One should also ensure that one's wifi connection has sufficient bandwidth.

Agreements

Handout materials and the Zoom link will be sent to registrants prior to each of the three sessions. Neither the Zoom link nor the copyrighted handouts can be shared with nonregistrants. Moreover, nonregistrants may not view the presentations with those who are registered. Noncompliance with these agreements will result in being removed from the Zoom meeting.

Faculty

Rev. Richard Blackburn, LMPC Director Emeritus and Senior Consultant, will be the primary presenter. For four years, he attended Edwin Friedman's *Postgraduate Clergy Seminar in Family Emotional Process*. He also participated for four years in the *Postgraduate Program in Bowen Family Systems Theory and Its Applications* at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family. **Rev. Jay Wittmeyer**, LMPC Executive Director, will help provide leadership for the family of origin and congregational case study groups. During the past year he also attended the *Postgraduate Program in Bowen Family Systems Theory and Its Applications* at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family.

Tuition

Tuition is \$1,075 for the entire series for registrations received prior to **September 13, 2021**. The fee is \$1,275 for registrations received after that date, but prior to **October 4, 2021**. After that date the fee is \$1,475. Cancellations are subject to a non-refundable administration fee of \$100, if we receive notification no later than **September 27, 2021**, or half of the registration fee, if notified prior to **October 11, 2021**. 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. One may also register online at www.LMPeaceCenter.org/ticketspice/ (additional service fee will be applied when registering online).

Primary Reading

Participants in the *Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process* are required to read *Extraordinary Relationships: A New Way of Thinking About Human Interactions* by Roberta Gilbert (Leading Systems Press, 2017) and *One Family's Story: A Primer on Bowen Theory* by Michael E. Kerr (Georgetown Family Center, 2003). *Extraordinary Relationships* may be available via Amazon; *One Family's Story* can be purchased from LMPC at a much better price than is found on Amazon.

Concepts To Be Studied

Differentiation of Self: A way of describing people's differing adaptiveness to anxiety and ability to balance the forces for individuality and togetherness. Change begins in a family (or organization) when a leader clarifies one's thinking, keeps acting on that basis, and stays calmly connected to the family when they react.

Triangles: The basic molecule of any relationship system, it describes the way any three people relate to each other and involve others in the emotional issues between them.

Nuclear Family Emotional System and Family Projection Process: The relationship patterns used to play out fusion or anxiety among parents and children, including the way in which parents project their problems to the children.

Multigenerational Transmission Process: The basic level of differentiation, as well as emotional process patterns, passed down through multiple generations in a family.

Sibling Position: People take on a functioning position in their family that contributes toward personality development, with birth order being a key variable impacting attitudes and behaviors.

Emotional Cutoff: The way people handle the undifferentiation and emotional intensity that exist between the generations and their impact on family symptoms.

Societal Regression: Society and its institutions are in a period of increasing chronic anxiety and respond with emotionally determined decisions to allay the anxiety of the moment.

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

For Further Information

Write: *Lombard Mennonite Peace Center*
101 West 22nd Street, Suite 206
Lombard, IL 60148

E-mail: admin@LMPeaceCenter.org

Website: www.LMPeaceCenter.org

Call: (630) 627-0507

Fax: (630) 627-0519



Registration Form

Enclose payment as specified on the brochure under "Tuition." Make checks payable (in US funds) to "LMPC."
Clip and mail to: Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, 101 West 22nd Street, Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148.

Name _____

Address _____

Congregation/Organization _____

Personal Email _____

Home Phone _____

Zip _____

State _____

Work Phone _____

Other Email _____

Register me for the 2021-2022 *Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process*. _____ **Group A** _____ **Group B**

Send me _____ more copies of this brochure for sharing with clergy colleagues.

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

Send me information about LMPC's *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders*

Please check if registering: I have read and agree to the cancellation policy explained under "Tuition" in this brochure.

To register online select the event at www.lmpeacecenter.org/ticketspice/ (additional fee applied)

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**A Leadership
Training
Program**

Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process

**October 25-27, 2021
February 14-16, 2022
May 2-4, 2022**

or

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**Sponsored by
Lombard Mennonite Peace Center
Lombard, Illinois**

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)

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