

Advanced Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process

Sponsored by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

Dates

October 18-20, 2021; February 7-9, 2022; April 25-27, 2022

The **Advanced Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process** meets three times during the year for three successive days each time, thus providing a total of nine days of training.

Sessions will be held in the Chicago area at a location accessible from both O'Hare and Midway airports. The site has yet to be determined. Participants will also have the option to attend remotely via Zoom.



Who Will Benefit

- Pastors and Interim Pastors
- Judicatory Officials
- Church Consultants
- Leaders of Other Religious Organizations

Prerequisites

Participants in the **Advanced Clergy Clinic** will have completed LMPC's basic **Clergy Clinic**, attended the **Advanced Clergy Clinic** in a previous year, or been accepted into the program by LMPC staff on the basis of documented background in Bowen family systems theory.

Tuition

Tuition for the series is \$1,100 (US) for registrations *received by* September 13, 2021, and \$1,300 (US) if received *after that date*. To register, return the form below with full payment. Cancellations are subject to a \$100 non-refundable administration fee if we receive notification by September 27, 2021, or half of the registration fee if the cancellation is received after October 4, 2021. Afterward, there will be no refunds for missed sessions. Such cancellation fees are necessary, since we are required to contract with family of origin group leaders several weeks prior to the first session. Cancellations can result in LMPC having to pay for family of origin group leaders who are no longer needed after the number of registrants is reduced by late cancellations.

Schedule for each Session

Mondays

- 9:00 a.m. — Guest Presenter
- 12:00 p.m. — Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00 p.m. — Guest Presenter
- 4:00 p.m. — Adjournment for the Day

Tuesdays

- 9:00 a.m. — Input: Bowen Family Systems Theory
- 12:00 p.m.— Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00 p.m.— Family of Origin Groups
- 4:30 p.m. — Adjournment for the Day

Wednesdays

- 9:00 a.m. — Input: Emotional Process and Congregational Systems
- 12:00 p.m.— Lunch (on your own)
- 1:15 p.m.— Congregational Case Study Presentations
- 4:30 p.m. — Conclusion

**For further information,
call 630-627-0507**

Website: www.LMPeaceCenter.org

Registration Form / Request for Application

I am interested in LMPC's **Advanced Clergy Clinic** for the year 2021-2022.
Clip and mail to: LMPC, 101 W. 22nd Street, Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____ Church/Organizations _____

_____ Register me for **Advanced Clergy Clinic**; I have previously participated in LMPC's **Clergy Clinic** or **Advanced Clergy Clinic**. Enclosed is my payment of \$1,100 (\$1,300 after 9/13/21). Make checks payable to "LMPC."

_____ Although I have not participated in LMPC's basic **Clergy Clinic**, I have a background in Bowen family systems theory. Please send me an application and further information for the **Advanced Clergy Clinic**.

Please check here if registering: _____ I have read and agree to the cancellation policy explained under "Tuition" above.

Advanced Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process

October, 2021 to April, 2022

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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 settings.

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 ***Advanced 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.

Format

The ***Advanced 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 personal family, the parishioner family, and the congregation as a family.

The first day each time will be largely didactic, including input from a guest presenter who is a significant leader in the field of Bowen family systems theory and related areas. The morning of the second and third days will also be didactic, with presentations from the clinic faculty as well as videotape input from Murray Bowen, Edwin Friedman, and others. The afternoons of the second and third days will be clinical in format. On Tuesday afternoon each time we divide into small groups providing participants an opportunity to explore their own family of origin issues 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 system, 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 learned simply by attending a 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 functional level of differentiation and, thereby, positively impact one's leadership capabilities in all areas of ministry.

Faculty

Rev. Richard Blackburn is Director Emeritus and Senior Consultant for the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. He has broad experience as a trainer, mediator, and consultant with churches and their leaders. For several years, he attended Edwin Friedman's *Post Graduate Clergy Seminar in Family Emotional Process* in Bethesda, MD. Richard 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.

Rev. Jay Wittmeyer is Executive Director for the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. He brings to the institute many years of practical experience of mediating conflict in churches and organizations, while also training others to be self-differentiated leaders in the midst of congregational anxieties. Before joining the LMPC staff, Jay served as the Executive Director of Global Mission and Service with the Church of the Brethren, which involved the supervision of staff members in Brethren Disaster Ministries and Material Resources, Brethren Volunteer Service, the Global Food Initiative, and the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy.