
Advanced Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process

October, 2008 to April, 2009

Sponsored by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

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

Richard Blackburn is Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. He has led hundreds of workshops on conflict transformation and mediation skills; he has also had broad experience as a mediator and consultant, working primarily with conflicted churches and their leaders. The congregational intervention model he developed represents a transformational model of mediation, placed within the context of Bowen family systems theory.

For several years Richard participated in Dr. Edwin Friedman's "Post Graduate Clergy Seminar in Family Emotional Process" in Bethesda, MD. Subsequently he participated in the Georgetown Family Center's "Special Postgraduate Program in Bowen Family Systems Theory and Its Applications" in Washington, D.C. Richard is an ordained minister in the Mennonite Church.

Robert Williamson serves with LMPC in an Adjunct Faculty role. He has served as a parish pastor and, since joining the LMPC staff, as a trainer and consultant to conflicted churches. He studied briefly under Dr. Edwin Friedman at the Center for Family Process in Bethesda, MD. Bob also participated in the Georgetown Family Center's "Special Postgraduate Program in Bowen Family Systems Theory and Its Applications."

Richard and Robert have also been trained by Dr. Peter Steinke as facilitators of the *Bridgebuilder* process and as presenters of the *Healthy Congregations* workshop, both of which are based on Bowen family systems theory.

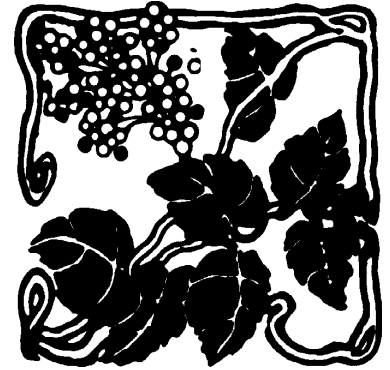
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Dates and Location

October 20-22, 2008
February 2-4, 2009
April 20-22, 2009

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



Sessions will be held near the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in west suburban Chicago; the specific host church is still to be determined. The western suburbs are accessible from both O'Hare and Midway airports. A map to the site and hotel information will be sent with confirmation of registration.

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 \$975 (US) for registrations received prior to September 15, 2008, and \$1,075 (US) if received after that date. To register, return the form below with full payment. Cancellations are subject to a \$75 non-refundable administration fee if we receive notification three or more weeks before the clinic begins, or half of the registration fee otherwise. 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.

Mondays

- 1:00 p.m. — Guest Presenter
- 5:30 p.m. — Supper (provided on site)
- 6:30 p.m. — Guest Presenter
- 8:00 p.m. — Adjournment for the Day

Tuesdays

- 9:00 a.m. — Input: Bowen Family Systems Theory
- 12:00 p.m.— Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. — Family of Origin Groups
- 5:00 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 2008-2009.
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 \$975 (\$1,075 after 9/15/08). 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*.