

Engage Conflict Well – Case Studies
A two day seminar for clergy
August 18-19, 2009



This seminar is open to any interested clergy. All congregations experience conflict, and many experience intense conflict. This seminar is an opportunity for clergy to focus on a particular situation of conflict, past or present, as a way of reflecting broadly on issues relating to congregational health, pastoral and lay leadership, and the development of creative strategies for handling conflict in the parish. In preparation for the seminar, participants will be asked to submit a brief written description of a specific conflict.

This seminar will focus on the application of analytical tools, Circle Process, and Healthy Congregations concepts (Family Systems Theory) to specific cases of conflict presented by the participants. There are no prerequisites for this seminar, however I will suggest some advance reading particularly for persons who have not had previous training in conflict theory, Circle Process, or Family Systems Theory in relation to church conflict.

The Details:

When? Tuesday, August 18, 9:30 AM. - Wednesday, August 19, 4 PM.

Seminar schedule:

Tuesday 10 AM - 5 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM - 4 PM

Where? Asbury - Crestwood United Methodist Church, 167 Scarsdale Rd.,
Tuckahoe, NY 10707 914-779-3722

(At exit 4 on the Bronx River Parkway in Westchester County – not in the Bronx!)

What?

- The instructor will provide a very brief summary of conflict theory in relation to congregations.
- Individual participants will present a synopsis of their conflict case.
- Participants will complete an analytical assessment of their case.
- Participants will explore strategies for engaging their conflicted situation creatively.
- The seminar will include an introduction to Circle Process and an opportunity to practice that process.

CEU Credits? Yes. 1.25

Enrollment limited? Yes, limit of 8 participants (Because each participant takes time to present her or his case, there needs to be this limit.)

Instructor? Rev. Scott Summerville

Rev. Scott Summerville is pastor at Asbury UMC in Yonkers, New York. He has more than thirty years experience in parish ministry in urban, small town and suburban settings in the New York area. He is trainer for both clergy and laity in issues relating to church conflict, congregational health, and professional boundaries and ethics for clergy. He has also been a facilitator for congregations in crisis.

Scott has received training from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, The Center for Creative Church Leadership, the Alban Institute, the FaithTrust Institute, the Focusing Institute, the JustPeace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation (United Methodist), Bridgebuilders (Peter Steinke), and Healthy Congregations. He also has studied with a number of professional mediators: Sam Leonard, Sarah Lilja, Peter Steinke, Emlyn Ott, Stephanie Hixon, and Tom Porter.

His teaching ministry has grown out of his passion to see clergy and lay persons find greater effectiveness and joy in their ministries by:

developing psychological hardiness and coping skills,
dealing with conflict in creative and healthy ways,
and maintaining integrity in ministry.

Cost? \$135 includes the seminar, printed materials, and food
(refreshments Monday AM, lunch both days, breakfast Tuesday)

The instructor has donated his time for this seminar. Any proceeds from the seminar beyond expenses will be used to fund further New York Annual Conference training in conflict transformation. Payment is refundable prior to the event.

Local Accommodations? (from least to most expensive)

Royal Regency, 165 Tuckahoe Rd Yonkers 914-476-6200
Ramada, 125 Tuckahoe Rd Yonkers 914-476-3800
Marriott, 670 White Plains Rd Tarrytown 631-2200
Hampton Inn, 200 E. Main St Elmsford 914-592-5680

More Information?

Call or email Rev. Scott Summerville 914-779-3722 sumvil@aol.com

Registration?

Mail name/church/email address with full payment *payable to Asbury UMC* to:

Asbury UMC Seminar
167 Scarsdale Rd.
Tuckahoe, NY 10707