

## Comments from past participants:

*This course is an invaluable resource for all church leaders and for the health and well being of churches. It offers a challenging opportunity to examine self – to self differentiate and see the implications for healing within the system.*

**Rev. Maureen Wilson, URC minister, Scotland**

*This course really helped me to see below the surface of conflict I'm involved with.*

**Rev. Iain Clark, Baptist minister, Essex**

*Anxiety, conflict and reactivity in churches are made to feel normal, and good insights and strategies are provided for managing this.*

**Ven. Mark Wilson, Anglican Archdeacon and counselor, Surrey**

*The course provides the benefit of understanding both my family and my churches better, and how they impact on each other.*

**Rev. James Skinner, Methodist superintendent minister, Norfolk**

*The course provides a safe environment to explore one's family of origin.*

**Clarissa Wilson, Anglican pastoral worker, Australia**

*The course brings benefits in shedding light both on my family and my current work and the task of what self-differentiation is.*

**Rev. Adrian Berry, Anglican ministry development officer, Wales**

*I gained a greater understanding of conflict and the surprising correlations between conflict in family of origin and congregation.*

**Rev. Pat Quint, Anglican parish priest, Hertfordshire**

**Concepts to be studied will include:** triangles; differentiation of self; nuclear family emotional system and family projection process; multigenerational transmission process; sibling position; societal regression; and emotional cutoff. Reflection on such concepts will include implications for one's nuclear and extended family system, and the congregational family system.

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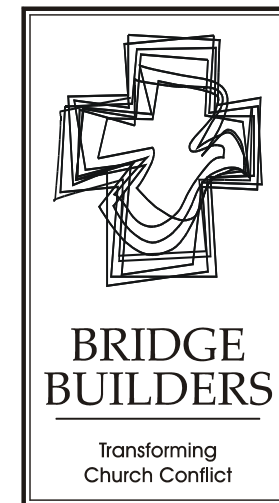
# Church Leadership and Family Systems

**6–9 June 2006**

**London Mennonite Centre**

**led by**

**Richard Blackburn**



This course in *Church Leadership and Family Systems* at the **London Mennonite Centre** is designed to enhance the ability of participants to function as mature leaders within their churches. It will provide a safe forum for processing challenging situations in ministry, while also facilitating reflection on a way of thinking about the human condition which has implications for all aspects of life. Following a successful course in 2005, Bridge Builders is pleased to welcome the return of the course in 2006.

Since the publication of *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*, by Dr Edwin Friedman, church leaders have found an understanding of Bowen family systems theory a valuable tool for understanding 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, Friedman saw the relevance of Bowen's ideas for congregations and their leaders.

With today's rising level of anxiety in society and its resulting impact on families, such anxiety will impact the church with increasing intensity in the years ahead. The resulting heightened pressures in congregations and the increasing demands which that places on clergy make it vital that leaders step back occasionally from the fray to assess their own capacity for managing themselves in a calmer, more differentiated way.

# Church Leadership and Family Systems

**6-9 June 2006 at the London Mennonite Centre**

The opening day will be largely didactic, focusing on the basic concepts of Bowen family systems theory. Most of the other mornings will also be didactic, with presentations by Richard Blackburn as well as videotape input from Murray Bowen and Edwin Friedman.

The other sessions will be clinical in format. On the second afternoon participants will divide into small groups to explore their own family of origin issues with guidance from an experienced family systems practitioner or therapist. Other clinical sessions include presentation of case studies by participants from their own congregation, followed by opportunity for feedback and consultation. Each day will open with prayer and worship. *The course is intensive, so evening commitments are best avoided.*

## Presenter

Richard Blackburn is Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Chicago, USA. He has broad experience as a trainer, mediator, and consultant with conflicted churches and their leaders. The congregational mediation model he has developed represents a transformational approach, placed within the context of Bowen family systems theory. For several years he participated in Edwin Friedman's *Postgraduate Clergy Seminar in Family Emotional Process* and the Georgetown Family Center's *Postgraduate Program in Family Systems Theory and Its Applications*.

## Meals and Accommodation

A main meal and refreshments will be provided each day. Participants will need to arrange their own accommodation and other meals. Contact the London Mennonite Centre if you need help in finding accommodation.

## Cost and Application

The cost for the course is £290. Precedence is given to participants sponsored by their church or organisation. Those on low incomes can apply for a bursary of £50, but these are limited. Training materials and a copy of the book *Extraordinary Relationships* by Roberta Gilbert (required course reading) are included in the price, as are refreshments and a main meal each day.

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 16, so do apply early.

To apply, return the enclosed application form with a cheque for £100 payable to *Bridge Builders*. The balance of the fee is due eight weeks before the start of the course. Once accepted, the £100 deposit is non-refundable. The full fee is owed if a place is cancelled within six weeks of the course start date. Cheques will not be banked until acceptance onto the course.

## Programme Overview

### Tuesday 6 June 2006

11:00-11:15      *Opening worship*  
11:15-12:45      Opening session on Bowen Family Systems Theory  
12:45-1:45        *Lunch*  
1:45-6:30         3 sessions on Bowen Family Systems Theory  
6:30-7:30         *Dinner*

### Wednesday 7 June 2006

9:15-9:30         *Opening worship*  
9:30-12:45        2 sessions on Bowen Family Systems Theory  
12:45-1:45        *Lunch*  
1:45-5:15         2 sessions of Family of Origin Groups

### Thursday 8 June 2006

9:15-9:30         *Opening worship*  
9:30-12:45        2 sessions on Emotional Process & Congregational Systems  
12:45-1:45        *Lunch*  
1:45-5:15         2 sessions of Congregational Case Study Presentations  
5:15-6:15         *Optional informal party*

### Friday 9 June 2006

9:00-9:15         *Opening worship*  
9:15-10:45        Session on Emotional Process and Congregational Systems  
11:15-12:45       Congregational Case Study Presentations in smaller groups  
12:45-1:00        Closing time in large group  
1:00-2:00         *Lunch*

# APPLICATION FORM

## Church Leadership and Family Systems

Please return this form with a cheque for £100 made payable to *Bridge Builders* to:

Alastair McKay, Director of Bridge Builders,  
14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ

Tel: 0845 4500 214 Fax: 020 8341 6807  
E-mail: [bb@menno.org.uk](mailto:bb@menno.org.uk)

6-9 June 2006  
at the London Mennonite Centre

*Please complete all sections of the form clearly. Thank you.*

Your details:

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

TEL & MOBILE .....

E-MAIL .....

Church and/or Organisation Name .....

Denomination .....

Your Church Responsibilities .....

The fee for the course is £290. Are you applying for a reduced fee of £240 because you are on a very low income? (NB: there are only a limited number of such places) YES / NO

From where or whom did you learn about the course? .....

Why do you want to undertake this training?

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To help us plan for catering, tick if you are vegetarian . Please explain if you have any other dietary restrictions or special needs. We will try our best to accommodate these.

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FOR OFFICE USE

Appl Accept	Deposit Paid	DB Update	Inv	Conf Ltr Sent	Accomm Req/Sent	Bal Paid	Receipt Sent	Course Details Sent
/ /	RN		#		/			

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