

## What some past participants on BB skills training courses have said:

*"A creative, exciting & challenging course that equips church leaders in skilful mediation."*

Revd Richard Lewis, Baptist Regional Minister, Norfolk

*"An excellent training course."*

Joanna Cox, Church of England Board of Education, London

*"An excellent opportunity to learn & develop mediation skills, uniquely underlined by biblical teaching & of direct relevance to church and secular settings."*

Stephen Hitchcock, CofE pastoral care team, Kendal, Cumbria

*"Provides real in-depth insights into conflict resolution processes. Very participative course that draws on experience from within and beyond the learning environment. Hard work but hugely stimulating."*

Revd Sheila Bamber, Director of Education, Anglican Diocese of Durham

*"One of the most practical and empowering courses that I have attended."*

Revd David Goodyear, Baptist minister, Aberdeen

*"An excellent context in which to develop understanding of interpersonal tension and skills for dealing with it."*

Revd Julia Mourant, CME Adviser, Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford

*"Delivery is varied, intentionally fun and highly educational."*

Samantha Johnson, Salvation Army officer, Hemel Hempstead

*"A very worthwhile experience."*

Revd Gerald England, URC minister, Kidderminster, Worcestershire

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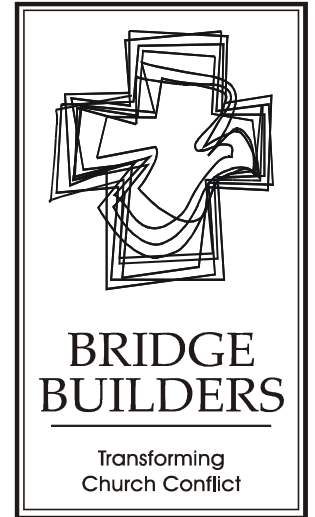
# MEDIATING INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS

## Skills Training for Christians

### 22 – 26 June 2009

### London Mennonite Centre

### led by the Bridge Builders team



What can you do when a relationship between fellow Christians is strained? While you can pray for them, you may also be in a position to bring them together to try to overcome the tensions. If your training with Bridge Builders has given you an appetite for practical peace-making, and you want to be equipped to mediate between individuals, then the *Mediating Interpersonal Conflicts* course is for you.

Building on what is learnt during the Bridge Builders' foundation course, *Transforming Church Conflict*, this new, non-residential, five-day course offers a more thorough grounding in interpersonal mediation than Bridge Builders has provided before. The course will introduce you to a carefully-structured process that you practise step by step. Focusing on transforming conflicts among Christians, the skills that you learn can also be used wherever there is a role, formal or informal, for intervention by a third party.

Bridge Builders is the training and mediation service of the London Mennonite Centre (LMC), where the course is being held. We hope to have a breadth of denominations represented, as on previous courses. Participants will be able to join our network of Christians around Britain involved in church mediation work.

*"... God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, ... has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:18*

# MEDIATING INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS

## Skills Training for Christians

**22–26 June 2009, London Mennonite Centre**

Begins 10:00am Monday morning, ends 4:30pm Friday afternoon

The course will include teaching, group work and guided practice. Active and practical in focus, the sessions will emphasise hands-on skills training and use role-plays based on the kinds of conflicts encountered in the church. Each day will include times of prayer and worship. *The course is intensive; significant other commitments are best avoided during the week.*

### Presenters

**Alastair McKay** is director of Bridge Builders at the LMC, providing training, mediation and consultancy services to churches since 1996. Alastair is studying for a Doctorate of Ministry, and has contributed to the books *Making Peace With Conflict* (Herald Press, 1999) and *How to Become a Creative Church Leader* (Canterbury Press, 2008).

**Colin Patterson** is assistant director of Bridge Builders, and an Anglican priest. He has worked as a training officer for the Diocese of Durham, is an experienced adult educator and is author of the Grove booklet *How to Learn Through Conflict*.

**Sharon Kniss** is a trainer and mediator with Bridge Builders. She is a Mennonite from the United States, with a degree in Justice, Peace and Conflict Studies from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia.

### Venue

The course will be held at the London Mennonite Centre, 14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ. The LMC is five minutes walk from Highgate tube station in North London, just off the A1. *Please note the 10:00am prompt start on the first day: you may want to stay in London the night before.*

### Meals and Accommodation

Lunch and refreshments will be provided each day. Participants will need to arrange their own accommodation, breakfast, and evening meal. Contact the London Mennonite Centre if you need help in finding accommodation.

### Cost, Application and Cancellation

The fee is £500; a training manual is included. Please note that the course is only open to those who have previously completed either the foundation course, *Transforming Church Conflict*, or the earlier *Skills Training for Mediation and Facilitation in the Church*. Precedence is given to applicants sponsored by their church or organisation, and who may use the training for its benefit, or to enhance their own ministry. If you are on a very low income, then please contact us to see whether a bursary may be available.

**Spaces are limited to a maximum of 16, so do apply early, as our courses are regularly over-subscribed.** 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 a non-refundable. The full fee is owed if a place is cancelled within eight weeks of the course start date (i.e. from 27 April 2009 onwards).

### Tentative Programme Overview

#### Monday 22 June, 10:00am – 6:00pm

· Introductions · Foundation & Vision for Mediation · Jesus the Mediator · Overview of Interpersonal Mediation · Getting People to the Table

#### Tuesday 23 June, 9:00am – 6:00pm

· Power and Mediation · Mediators' Listening Skills · Introduction & Story-Telling · Identifying Common Ground & Issues · Mediation & Your Style Profile

#### Wednesday 24 June, 9:00am – 6:00pm

· Drawing Out Underlying Concerns · Problem-Solving & Healing Strategies · Teamwork in Mediation

#### Thursday 25 June, 9:00am – 6:00pm

· Problem-Solving & Healing continued · Reframing · Private Meetings · Making Agreements · What if...? · Putting it All Together

#### Friday 26 June, 9:00am – 4:30pm

· Ethical Dilemmas in Mediation · Completing the Tool Box · Adapting the Process · Guidance for New Mediators · Reflection, Conclusion & Review