

What some past participants on this course have said:

"The course will totally transform your ministry."

Revd Ian Bunce, Baptist Regional Minister, Norfolk

"An excellent training course."

Joanna Cox, Church of England Board of Education, London

"A must for all who want to learn how to deal with conflict in the life of the church and more generally."

Revd David Mullins, Methodist Superintendent Minister, Hertfordshire

"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

"The course gives key hope and methods to understand those we disagree with."

Revd Richard Turnbull, URC minister and Uni. chaplain, Nottingham

"An opportunity to change your life in a week."

Revd John Munro, Church of Scotland Minister, Kinross

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SKILLS TRAINING FOR MEDIATION & FACILITATION IN THE CHURCH

29 June – 4 July 2008

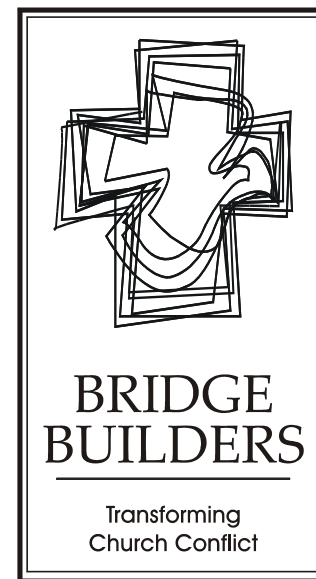
**Scottish Churches House
Dunblane, Scotland**

led by the Bridge Builders team

Conflict is normal and inevitable – but Christians often feel ill-prepared to handle conflict in the church. The *Skills Training Course for Mediation and Facilitation in the Church* is designed to equip Christians with practical skills for responding constructively to conflict. This five-day course explores conflict within us, between individuals and within the congregation. The course aims to raise self-awareness, to develop understanding of conflict and to teach methods to facilitate resolution and transformation of conflicts, particularly through mediation. Although focussed primarily on the church setting, the skills learned are transferable to other areas of life.

Bridge Builders, the training and mediation service of the London Mennonite Centre, invites all those interested in addressing conflicts within the church to take part in the course. The course is being held residentially in Dunblane at Scottish Churches House. Spaces are limited, but we retain a desire to have a breadth of denominations represented, as in previous years. Course participants will be invited to join our Bridge Builders' Network, of Christians around Britain involved in transforming church conflict.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:18



SKILLS TRAINING FOR MEDIATION & FACILITATION IN THE CHURCH

29 June – 4 July 2008, Scottish Churches House, Dunblane

Begins 6:00pm Sunday evening, 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, and includes evening sessions on the Tuesday and Wednesday; 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 has an MA in Conflict Transformation, and has contributed to the book *Making Peace With Conflict* (Herald Press, 1999).

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.

Meals and Accommodation

The course is residential with accommodation provided from Sunday evening to Thursday evening, and with meals provided each day from Sunday evening until Friday lunch time, of breakfast, lunch and evening meal, in single room accommodation at Scottish Churches House, Kirk Street, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0AP, Scotland (see www.scottishchurcheshouse.org).

Cost, Application and Cancellation

The standard cost for the course is £695. 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. Two training manuals and a style profile are included in the fee.

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 24, 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 six weeks of the course start date (ie from 18 May 2008 onwards).

Programme Overview

Sunday 29 June – arrival from 5:00pm; evening meal at 6:00pm

Monday 30 June (9:00am–6:00pm)

· Conflict and Faith: Our Call to Peacemaking · Introduction to Conflict · Understanding Conflict and Ourselves in Conflict · Your Personal Style Profile for Communication at Work · Communication Skills

Tuesday 1 July (9:00am–1:00pm, 3:30–6:00pm, 7:30–9:00pm)

· Power: A Self-Assessment · Understanding Conflict and Negotiation · Mediating Conflict Between Individuals: An Overview of the Process · Mediation Skills Practice: The Introduction and Story-Telling Stages

Wednesday 2 July (9:00am–1:00pm, 3:30–6:00pm, 7:30–9:00pm)

· Mediation Skills: Listening and Reframing · Mediation Skills Practice: The Problem-Solving and Healing Stages · Mediation Skills Practice: The Agreement Stage and Private Meetings

Thursday 3 July (9:00am–6:00pm)

· Mediation Skills: Further Practice · Ethical Dilemmas in Mediation · Facilitation Skills: Group Decision-Making Principles, Strategies and Tools

Friday 4 July (9:00am–4:30pm)

· Facilitation Skills: Planning Process · Dialogue Tools and Techniques · Levels of Conflict and Using Outside Help · Conclusion and Review