

What past participants have said:

"Experience and practice-based course founded on solid biblical principles and theology and run by skilled and sensitive facilitators."

Rt Rev Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon, Diocese of Bristol

"The course will help you to learn how tough mediation is, how much courage and persistence it needs, but that it is possible, and you can lead it."

Rev Dr Pat Took, Baptist Senior Regional Minister, London

"An excellent introduction to a good mediation process, well modelled by people who clearly love and understand the church."

Rev Elizabeth Caswell, URC Moderator, Eastern Synod, Cambridge

"The course goes beyond mediation to include issues of power and group process. A holistic approach to conflict. A wonderful encouragement and a revelation."

Dr James Behrens, Anglican barrister and author of *Church Disputes Mediation*

"Gives insight and helps equip church leaders to deal with the complex and conflictual nature of church life."

Monsignor Robert Draper, Roman Catholic Vicar General, Cornwall

"Clear, insightful, responsive to participants, skill-enabling, resourceful."

Rev Will Morrey, Methodist District Chair, Cardiff

"Of real value in understanding more of myself and learning skills to develop my leadership role."

Major Mike Highton, Salvation Army Divisional Commander, Essex

The high reputation this course has for helping leaders understand and manage conflict in the church is well deserved. It teaches new skills and processes to enable confidence and good practice.

Ven Annette Cooper, Anglican Archdeacon, Diocese of Chelmsford

"Profoundly life changing." **Ven Paul Wright, Anglican Archdeacon, Kent**

Bridge Builders, London Mennonite Centre, 14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ

Tel: 0845 4500 214 or 020 8340 8775 · Fax: 020 8341 6807

Email: bb@menno.org.uk Web: www.menno.org.uk

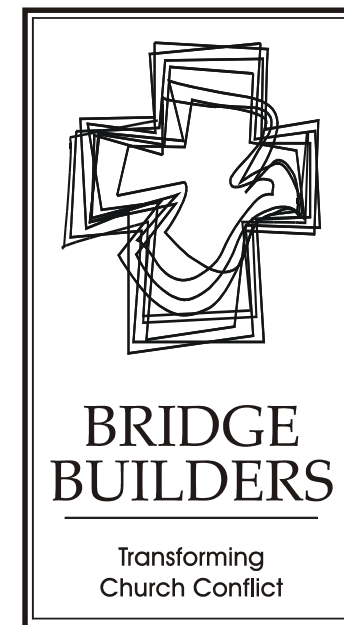
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SKILLS TRAINING FOR MEDIATION & FACILITATION FOR SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS

11-16 May 2008

Lindors Country House, Glos

led by the Bridge Builders team



Conflict is normal and inevitable – but Christian leaders often feel ill-prepared to handle conflict in the church. The *Skills Training Course for Mediation and Facilitation for Senior Church Leaders* is designed to equip leaders with practical skills for responding constructively to conflict. This acclaimed five-day course explores conflict within us, between individuals and within the church. The course aims to raise self-awareness, to develop understanding of conflict and to teach methods to facilitate resolution and transformation of conflicts within the church, particularly through the development of mediation and facilitation skills.

Bridge Builders, the training and mediation service of the London Mennonite Centre, invites senior church leaders to attend who want to equip themselves with practical peacemaking skills in the service of the church. The course is being held residentially at the Lindors Country House Hotel in Gloucestershire. Spaces are limited, but with the hope of wide ecumenical representation.

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

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11-16 May 2008, Lindors Country House, Gloucestershire
Begins with dinner at 6:30pm on Sunday, ends 2:00pm Friday

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 conflicts faced 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; we strongly advise that any 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, is studying for a DMin 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.

Who is the course for?

The course is designed for senior church leaders such as Bishops and others in the senior staff team (Anglican and Roman Catholic), Regional Ministers (Baptist), District Chairs (Methodist), Divisional Commanders (Salvation Army), Moderators (URC), or equivalents in other denominations. If in doubt, do contact us.

Accommodation and Meals

The course is fully residential, with accommodation from Sunday night, 11 May, to Thursday night, in accommodation at the Lindors Country House Hotel, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6RB (www.cgholidays.co.uk/mini_sites/lindors/index.php). All rooms are individual ones, either in the hotel, or in shared cabins. Meals are provided each day, beginning with dinner at 6:30pm on Sunday evening through until Friday lunch time.

Cost, Application and Cancellation

The cost for the course is £725. Two training manuals and a style profile are included in the fee. **Spaces are limited to a maximum of 20, 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. Please note that the full fee is owed if a place is cancelled within eight weeks of the start date (i.e. from 16 March 2008 onwards).

Overview of Tentative Programme

Sunday 11 May – Evening meal at 6:30pm

Monday 12 May (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 13 May (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 14 May (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 · The Samoan Circle: A Dialogue Tool

Thursday 15 May (9:00am-6:00pm)

· Leadership and Anxiety in the Church · Levels of Conflict and Case Studies · Facilitation Skills: Decision-Making Principles, Strategies and Tools · Group Decision-Making Exercise

Friday 16 May (9:00am-2:00pm)

· De-briefing the Decision-Making Exercise · Decision-Making and Acts 15 · Promoting a Culture of Conflict Transformation in the Church · Conclusion and Review