



Lombard Mennonite Peace Center 101 West 22nd Street, Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148

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Conflict in the Church: Entrusted With the Message of Reconciliation

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center provides unique programs in Christian peacemaking to churches, schools, and community groups. One of LMPC's more popular programs available to groups is a workshop in conflict transformation suitable for church retreat weekends or Friday night and day-long Saturday workshops. It would be an appropriate workshop for churches which are currently experiencing conflict—or those who simply want to work at preventing destructive conflict in the future.

One possible outline for a Friday night and all-day Saturday workshop would be:

- Friday: 7:00-8:15 – **Introduction: The Nature and Role of Conflict**
Conflict in the New Testament: Finding Renewal in Conflict
8:15-8:30 – Break
8:30-9:30 – **Understanding Your Own Style of Response to Conflict**
- Saturday: 9:00-10:30 – **Discovering Your Personal Style Profile for Communication in Groups**
Interpreting Your Personal Style Profile: Your Unique Strengths and Potential Excesses
10:30-10:45 – Break
10:45-12:00 – **Interpersonal Peacemaking Skills: How to be Effective When People are Angry**
12:00-1:00 – Lunch
1:00-2:30 – **Congregational Conflict: The Dynamics of Conflict in the Church**
2:30-2:45 – Break
2:45-4:00 – **Congregational Conflict: Managing Conflict in the Church**

Other topics that can be addressed, depending on the nature and desires of the hosting group, include:

- **Conflict Transformation Skills for the Family**
- **Conflict Transformation Skills for the Classroom**
- **An Introduction to Mediating Interpersonal Conflict**

The facilitator for such a program would be either Richard Blackburn, LMPC Executive Director, Bill Blank, LMPC Associate Director. In addition to their long involvement in issues related to Christian peacemaking and conflict transformation in churches, their training in family systems theory makes them uniquely qualified to lead conflict transformation workshops. Finally, in order to continue the educational process after the workshop, LMPC books on conflict transformation and other Christian peacemaking concerns can be made available to participants.

Groups interested in exploring the possibility of hosting a workshop can contact the peace center at the above address or phone number.