

Using Family Systems Theory in Your Ministry

This Program is Designed For Clergy and Lay Church Leaders

September 2015 - April 2016
Two Thursdays a month | 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Course Locations: St Margaret's Anglican Church, 1530 E. 22nd Ave, Vancouver BC

Using Family Systems Theory in Your Ministry

Family Systems Theory describes the emotional processes that regulate human functioning both in families and in organizations. Dr. Edwin Friedman, in his popular books *Generation to Generation* and *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix*, and Dr. Ronald Richardson in *Creating a Healthier Church*, have applied the concepts of Family Systems Theory to the church setting. Both authors have provided valuable insights for religious leaders.

This eight-month program for clergy and church leaders:

- Offers an introduction to Family Systems Theory
- Seeks to show how systems concepts apply to the organizational life of the church and its ministry
- Provides an opportunity for practical “hands on” use of the theory
- Invites participants to reflect on the implications of systems concepts for pastoral leadership, personal faith, and theological understanding

Additional Learning

Family Systems Theory provides insights into:

- How emotional upsets occur in a congregation, and how leaders can function to create a different outcome
- How to relate more helpfully (and with less personal stress) to some of the difficult people in the church
- How this different concept of leadership can make being a church leader more enjoyable and less complicated
- How crises of faith may be intimately related to family issues
- How stress is often related to one's position in the system rather than to the workload
- How family systems concepts can inform preaching, teaching, caring and administrative functions in the church
- How these concepts can help you in your own personal and family life

The Program Leader

Sharon Salomons, M.Div., is an Anglican priest and a Registered Clinical Counsellor with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors. She has been an Associate Clinical Counsellor with Living Systems since 2012. Sharon Salomons served for ten years in parish ministry and prior to that worked in the area of family community services. Her training in Bowen Family Systems theory includes three years of the Clinical Internship Program at Living Systems and one year of the Post Graduate Program at the Bowen Family Center in Washington D.C. In her training in Bowen theory, Sharon focused particularly on the application of the theory to emotional process in the church. She currently provides counselling services to individuals, couples and families as well as coaching to clergy.

Format

This 42 hour course consists of two three-hour sessions per month over a period of seven or eight months.

Fees

The cost of the program is \$800 to be paid the first day of class. Make cheques payable to Living Systems.

Texts

Generation to Generation
By Dr. Edwin H. Friedman's

Creating A Healthier Church
by Dr. Ronald Richardson's

Mission Statement

The mission of Living Systems is to contribute to the knowledge of human behavior from a natural systems perspective and to offer that knowledge through the provision of counselling, training and education to interested members of the community. Living Systems is a registered society. The work of the Society is supported by memberships, donations and grants.

For program information and applications procedures, contact:

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