

Comments from past participants:

Changes your whole attitude to church conflict from a negative, destructive force to something constructive and positive. Should be included in all training for ministry.

Revd Nia Williams, Canon Missioner Church in Wales

This course is superb! It's more a shared journey of personal development and skill-sharing than just a training course.

Revd Dr John Campbell, URC College Principal, Manchester

It has given me the tools and awareness to help me pay attention to God and be open to being used to transform conflict.

Revd Selina Garner, Curate, Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire

This course will help you understand yourself in relation to others and give you a tool kit to prevent conflict escalating in a congregation. It's also fantastic fun!

Revd Mark Welch, Baptist Minister, Heathfield, East Sussex

Go for it! Worth every penny.

Aileen Barclay, Church of Scotland Elder, Aberdeen, Scotland

A lot of ground covered in a hugely stimulating and supportive environment.

Revd Canon Andrew Norman, Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge

Helps with understanding yourself, how this affects conflict situations and the need for culture change in the church today.

Revd Rachael Hawkins, Methodist Minister, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

Every church leader should attend this course in order to be transformed and help transform church conflicts.

Revd Shahbaz Javed, URC Minister, Walthamstow, London

A great week's learning – well worth the investment of time.

Revd Olivia Graham, Parish Development Advisor, Diocese of Oxford



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TRANSFORMING CHURCH CONFLICT A Foundation Course for Leaders

23-28 April 2017

Felden Lodge Conference Centre, Hemel Hempstead

Led by Bridge Builders

Conflict is normal and inevitable – but Christians often feel ill-prepared to handle conflict in the church. *Transforming Church Conflict: A Foundation Course for Leaders* is a training course intended for those in leadership positions in the church, and also for other Christians who want to deal better with conflict. Attend this training course if you want to:

- Develop new skills for handling and transforming conflict
- Give time to personal growth as part of a worshipping community
- Be part of a movement that is changing the culture of the church
- Help put the church's energy to more creative use

This five-day course is focussed on conflict in church settings, and serves as the foundation for further Bridge Builders courses. Held residentially, it builds on our experience of leading similar training since 1996. The course aims to raise self-awareness, to deepen understanding of conflict and to teach methods for transforming conflict. Spaces are limited and early booking is recommended as our courses are regularly over-subscribed.

TRANSFORMING CHURCH CONFLICT

A Foundation Course for Leaders

23–28 April, Felden Lodge Conference Centre, Herts HP3 0BL

Begins Sunday evening, ends 4:30pm Friday

The course includes teaching, group work and guided practice. Active and practical in focus, the sessions provide hands-on skills training and use role-plays based on the kinds of conflicts encountered in the church. Each day includes times of prayer and worship. *The course is intensive and includes some evening sessions; we strongly recommend avoiding any other commitments during the week.*

Presenters

The course will be led by *Rupert Ward, Colin Patterson and Sue Haslehurst.*

Rupert Ward leads a church in the centre of Edinburgh and has experience of training leadership groups in other churches & charities. He is a member of the International Association of Facilitators and has also trained in Counselling and Theology. **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 author of the Grove booklet *How to Learn Through Conflict* and a contributor to *101 Great Ideas for Growing Healthy Churches*. **Sue Haslehurst** lives in Oxford, where she is involved in restorative justice, and works as a freelance community mediator. For many years Sue led a Mennonite Church in London and taught on the 'Workshop' Christian learning programme.

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 the Felden Lodge Conference Centre, Hemel Hempstead. (See <http://www.feldenlodge.co.uk/>)

Cost, Application and Cancellation

The standard cost for the course is £875. *A special "early bird" discount of £80 is available if booking by 29 January 2017, giving a reduced price of £795.* Where needed, 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. A training manual and a style profile are included in the fee.

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 23, so do apply early, as our courses are regularly over-subscribed. To apply, please complete the online form at <https://www.bbministries.org.uk/course/transforming-church-conflict-a-foundation-course-for-church-leaders-3/> and arrange payment of the deposit. The balance of the fee is due eight weeks before the start of the course (i.e. by 26 February 2017). 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 26 Feb 2017 on).

Course Timings

Sunday 23 April: arrival from 5:00pm; dinner 6:30pm; session at 7:30pm

Monday 24 and Thursday 27 April 9:00am–6:00pm

Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 April 9:00am–1:00pm, 3:30–6:00pm, 7:30–9:00pm

Friday 28 April: 9:00am–4:30pm

Course Objectives

1. To **increase your self-awareness** as a leader facing conflict, so that you become clearer about how others experience you and more confident about what you have to offer, and where you may need to grow;
2. To **transform your attitude** towards conflict and engaging with conflict, so that you are able to face conflict more constructively; and
3. To **equip you with practical skills** for working with conflict, so that you can engage with conflict more confidently in future.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course we expect that you will have:

- Developed greater awareness about your own communication style and its impact on others
- Enhanced your skills for communicating effectively in times of conflict
- Practised and learnt skills to facilitate meetings
- Learnt ways of building consensus and working with resistance in groups
- Developed your ability to analyse conflict and to identify what intervention may be appropriate, such as mediation
- Considered ways to nurture a culture of creative engagement with conflict
- Reflected on the type of leadership needed in times of conflict
- Reflected on some Biblical resources related to conflict
- Discovered ways that conflict can offer opportunities for growth