

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

An eye-opening course that left me feeling tremendously well equipped to facilitate conflict fruitfully in my church context.

Revd Jon Law, Baptist Pastor, Ilford, Essex



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TRANSFORMING CHURCH CONFLICT A Foundation Course for Leaders

4-9 February 2018

Felden Lodge Conference Centre, Hemel Hempstead

Led by Bridge Builders

Conflict is a normal and inevitable part of life, yet church leaders often feel ill-prepared to face conflict, and disturbed that it is happening amongst professing Christians. *Transforming Church Conflict* is designed to help! Attend this training course if you are in a leadership position in the church and you want to:

- Develop new skills for handling and transforming conflict
- Give time to personal growth in a learning, 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 residential course is focussed on conflict in church settings, and will help you to be a more resilient leader, and a more faithful disciple.

Explore what it means in practice to seek transformation by the work of the Spirit, to walk a path of reconciliation that begins with facing and blessing enemies, to lead with a spirit of power, of love and of self-control.

Transforming Church Conflict serves as the foundation for further Bridge Builders courses. It builds on our experience of leading similar training since 1996, and our commitment to peace-making.

TRANSFORMING CHURCH CONFLICT

A Foundation Course for Leaders

4–9 February 2018, Felden Lodge Conference Centre, Herts HP3 OBL
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, Liz Griffiths and Susan Iskander.*

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.

Liz Griffiths is Director of Training for Bridge Builders. She is an Anglican Priest and has a broad experience of both parish ministry and adult education. Liz has worked in city centre and urban estate parishes, and as Vice-Principal of the Eastern Region Ministry Course, helping to train ordained and lay ministers.

Susan Iskander is Rector of a large Anglican parish in the Diocese of Chelmsford, and supports clergy through individual coaching and leadership training. Susan draws on thirty years' experience working in the NHS on organisational change and leadership development.

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 £920. *A special discount of £80 is available if booking by 26 November 2018, giving a reduced price of £840.* 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-5/> and arrange payment of the deposit. The balance of the fee is due eight weeks before the start of the course (i.e. by 11 Dec 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 11 Dec 2017 on).

Course Timings

Sunday 4 February: arrival from 5:00pm; dinner 6:30pm; session at 7:30pm

Monday 5 and Thursday 8 February 9:00am–6:00pm

Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 February 9:00am–1:00pm, 3:30–6:00pm, 7:30–9:00pm

Friday 9 February: 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 it more constructively, and to model that attitude for others.
3. To **equip you with practical skills** for working with conflict as a leader, 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