

BRIDGEBUILDER TRAINING

Congregations are complex systems representing a variety of interpersonal dynamics, expectations, cultural and religious understandings. Congregations are always changing. Change brings opportunities for growth, creativity, and new beginnings.

Change also brings challenges. Rapid or significant change can result in conflict or congregations becoming stuck in a rut. Such conflict and stagnation can provide real opportunities for new understanding and deepened commitment. However when not addressed carefully, conflict and stagnation can lead to dysfunction and deadlock.

Bridgebuilder, developed by Dr. Peter Steinke, is a resource of trained lay and clergy people who assist congregations in reconciliation and healing. The six-step process includes interviews with congregation leaders and other members, interviews with staff, gathering of information and preparations for a follow-up plan.

Congregations discover solutions best suited to their contexts using the God-given skills found within their own communities.

The Bridge Builder Team of the Minneapolis Area Synod is sponsoring a training session for the Bridgebuilder process August 30 - September 1, 2010. We will meet from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday. Dr. Peter Steinke will conduct this training. The training will be held at Luther Seminary, 2481 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. The web site is: www.luthersem.edu. The cost of \$ 450.00 includes the Training Manual, the Leader's Packet, and one year's consultation following the training with Dr. Steinke, plus coffee breaks. Meals may be purchased at the Seminary cafeteria. There are limited rooms available overnight in Stub Hall. Contact the Seminary for room information. Phone: 651-641-3456. Registration closes August 23 and is limited to 12 people.

For more information and registration form contact Pastor Roger Schwarze, 651-777-5102 or rschwarze@qwest.net.