

Intentional Growth and Consultation Group February 17, 2016 - November 16, 2016

Introduction:

The theoretical base for this group experience will be Bowen Family Systems Theory. The group process utilizes the eight concepts of Family Systems theory as developed by Dr. Murry Bowen and applied to congregational life by Dr. Edwin Friedman and Dr. Ronald Richardson. From this perspective, the pastor or church worker stands at the point of three interactive systems- the individual families in the church, the church itself as an emotional system, and one's own family of origin. The minister's ability to function as a "non-anxious, and defined leader" within each of these emotional systems promotes life and growth within each. This perspective offers a new way of thinking about relationships, connecting theory and practice in an effort to strengthen pastoral and lay leadership in ministry. For an overview of the eight concepts of Bowen Family Systems theory, go to: www.thebowencenter.com.

Format:

The Group will begin Wednesday, February 17, 2016 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Subsequent meetings will be March 16, 2016, April 13, 2016, May 11, 2016, August 17, 2016, September 14, 2016, October 12, 2016, and November 16, 2016, from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Participation will be limited to eight members. All participants will be required to attend all eight sessions (except for emergencies only), commit to complete required readings, adhere to the group norms of confidentiality and willingness to participate in the process of leaning through mutual self disclosure.

Learning objectives:

Through the group didactic and interactive process, participants will:

1. Learn to see one's family of origin and one's functional position in it, as a resource to one's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well being. This will involve the creation of a personal family genogram as an instrument for self reflection and identification of patterns of resiliency, as well as, patterns of unresolved emotional attachment brought to ministry.
2. Learn to think systemically by understanding the reciprocal nature of emotional processes in our families of origin and our church families, and how these are triggered by anxiety and reinforced by emotional reactivity.

3. Learn from the the group processes of support, feedback, and identification with each participant’s sharing of current “stuck points” in ministry, as a means of supporting differentiation of self in leadership and the integration of theory with practice.

Program Facilitator:

Ken Barwick

Ken is an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and the director and therapist with Mt. Hebron Counseling Service for over twenty-eight years. He is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. He has developed and taught “How Churches Function Emotionally: Systems Theory in the Local Church” for the past three years in the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Please register me for this Group Experience February 17, **2016 - November 16, 9:00 AM - 12:30 pm** at **Mt. Hebron Counseling Center, 3156 Leaphart Rd, West Columbia, SC 29169** Cost: **\$425.00** (Limited scholarship money is available by application).

Mail registration to:

Kenneth Barwick, 3156 Leaphart Rd, West Columbia, SC 29169-3000.

Make checks payable to: **Mt. Hebron Counseling Service**

Registration Deadline Date is: **February 12, 2016**

Name: _____

Agency/Church/ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ E-mail _____

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this group process, please call Ken Barwick at 803-791-0495 or 803-960-3490 or by email at Kbarwick@mthebrnumc.com