

April 13 and 14, 2024

# MANAGING DIFFERENCES WITHIN FAITH COMMUNITIES

**Differences in the congregation don't have to result in a polarization that leaves a congregation stuck in disagreement.** Resilient congregations understand this. Still, many of us feel ill prepared to handle conflict within our faith communities. In this course you will learn how to transform conflict into spiritual and community renewal, focusing on:

- ◆ congregations as family systems;
- ◆ levels of conflict within faith communities;
- ◆ collaborative and transparent decision-making principles;
- ◆ theological principles on conflict;
- ◆ structured dialogue in high-anxiety situations; and
- ◆ congregational discernment processes.

Explore these issues and develop practical techniques for working effectively with these ever-present dynamics.

## April 13 and 14, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Fee:** \$250/person if paid no later than 4:00 PM on Friday, April 5, 2024 (thereafter the fee is \$300/person)

For congregations sending 3 or more members, \$200/person if paid by 4:00 PM on Friday, April 5, 2024

Notices of Cancellation received by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 will be entitled to a refund of fees paid, less a per person non-refundable cancellation fee of \$75.

**Place:** KIPCOR's Kaufman House Training Facility at Bethel College  
2515 College Ave., PO Box 276  
North Newton KS 67117

Off I-135 at Exit 34, south on K-15 to the overhead flashing light on 24<sup>th</sup>, east two blocks to College Ave., then north to #2515 (second house on the west).

### Credit Available:

- Academic Credit (Bethel College undergraduate-SSC 469)
- CEU Credit pending
- CDRE Approval pending
- A KIPCOR Conflict Resolution Certificate Course

### Instructors:

**Robert Yutzy** (KIPCOR Senior Associate for Congregational Ministries)  
**Kirsten Zerger** (KIPCOR Senior Associate for Mediation and Training)



**KANSAS INSTITUTE FOR PEACE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION (KIPCOR)**

2515 College Avenue, P.O. Box 276, North Newton KS 67117

316-284-5217

[www.kipcor.org](http://www.kipcor.org)

[kipcor@bethelks.edu](mailto:kipcor@bethelks.edu)

**Questions:** contact Gretchen Schrag, Office Manager at

316-284-5217, fax 316-284-5379, or e-mail [gschrag@bethelks.edu](mailto:gschrag@bethelks.edu)

## Comments From Workshop Evaluations

“Great tools for breaking down walls and building community.”

“Professional, relevant. Great educational approach (theory & practice). Transformative.”

“[I liked best] all of the visuals and hands on training—those make everything easier to both grasp and retain the concepts.”

“The instructors really take the time to make sure people understand the concepts, which I appreciate.”

**“The personal “Ah Ha” was so powerful that I felt a spiritual re-opening.”**

“I enjoyed the training, the class, and meeting some great new people.”

“[This course] opened both vision and soul to see so many ways this information can be used on such great levels.”

“The presenters did very well at keeping us engaged by keeping the class moving forward.”

**“The depth of knowledge and experience gained from this course will transform your life.”**

“Course gives better understanding of yourself, others & each other’s differences & tools, skills to manage those because we all experience conflict over differences every day.”

“This class will help you understand conflict in general and past conflicts you have been a part of, so you can better shape how to face conflicts in the future.”

“[I can see myself using these skills to] be more reflective of my power & role, seeking consensus in teams as we think about how we move forward. I wish we would have had this class when we made some big decisions earlier.”

**“A refreshing way to think about working at differences in congregational and church settings, both theoretical frameworks and specific strategies.”**

“It is very worth the time and a financial bargain.”