

FACILITATOR AND GROUP DESCRIPTIONS
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUPS
NH Conference, UCC
Grace Scott Fund for Pastoral Care
September 2020 – June 2021

NOTE: *Association designations are location of group. You may choose any group to attend.*



The Rev. Dr. Margaret B. Hess – Hillsborough Association & North Country Association

Meg is a NH Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist practicing with the Emmaus Institute in Nashua, NH, and a **Fellow in AAPC**. An ordained American Baptist minister, she served as Minister and Interim Minister to ABC/USA congregations in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for over 20 years. Meg is on the faculty of Leadership in Ministry Workshops, which uses Bowen systems theory as a lens to explore leadership development in religious institutions, and has been adjunct faculty in preaching at

Andover Newton Theological School since 1983. She returns for the twelfth year as a facilitator for the PLDGs.

Meg's groups will use Bowen family systems theory to explore pastoral leadership in congregations. The format will combine didactic sessions on Bowen theory, case study presentations, and family diagram (genogram) work by the participants.



The Rev. Dr. David B. Reynolds – Rockingham Association

David is Senior Staff at Pastoral Counseling Services (PCS) in Manchester, NH, where he has worked for thirty years. Recently, he stepped down from being Executive Director for seven and a half years. As an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a NH Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist, and a Clinical Member in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, he oversees the Clergy and Congregational Care Program at PCS, which provides psychotherapy, psychological testing, spiritual direction, and consultation for clergy and their families. David served eight years in the parish before working in pastoral psychotherapy. He returns for his eleventh year in leading a PLDG.

The PLDG he leads will have three components: spiritual centering; check-in on the pastoral self; and case presentations by group members. Case presentations are modeled after the Narrative Approach (as developed the book, *Narrative Leadership* by Hester and Walker-Jones). Special attention will also be given to Murray Bowen's concepts of anxiety, triangles, reactivity, self-differentiation, and emotional process in the context of the congregation. The group often decides a book or article to read together at the first gathering



The Rev. Rebecca Maccini - Southwest Association

The Rev. Rebecca Werner Maccini, designated pastor Congregational Christian Church in Franklin, UCC, has been in pastoral ministry for 28 years. She has served churches in northern New England and abroad in these pastoral configurations: as an associate; co-pastor; bi-vocational/part-time; and full-time. She has led the PLDG group in the Southwest Association for over seven years. Also, she co-leads the Newly Called Group.

Mentored by students of Murray Bowen and Ed Friedman, Rebecca has been studying Bowen family systems theory for over 20 years. She has presented at the Vermont Center for Family Studies in Burlington, Vermont. Rebecca also serves on the faculty of Leadership in Ministry, leading residential workshops around the U.S. to train clergy on integrating Bowen Family Systems Theory in their settings of ministry.

Rebecca offers the lens of family systems, which includes understanding triangles, congregational history, anxiety, and the pastor's familial history, as a way to frame pastoral ministry and leadership in a congregational setting. Family systems theory provides a way of "seeing" emotional process, and the opportunity for greater awareness of leadership skills in pastoral ministry. In addition, the key concept of boundaries will be a focus, including self-regulation and clarity, about where one's responsibility ends and another's begins. Bringing congregational case studies, doing family-of-origin work, utilizing genograms, teaching the theory, and theological reflection will be part of the group work.



The Rev. Robert Anderson – Merrimack Association

Bob is a chaplain, educator, and ordained Reformed Church (RCA) minister with a background as a multi-faith pastoral caregiver, certified ACPE supervisor and APC hospital chaplain. Complementing his healthcare and mental health hospital ministry, Bob has extensive experience in consultation and training with congregations and clergy as well as leading educational support groups for newly ordained women and men. He has ministered in congregations and taught as adjunct faculty in pastoral theology at Yale Divinity School. While serving seven hospitals in the northeast during his career, Bob specialized in community collaboration, medical ethics consultation, multicultural training, chaplain residency and supervisory education. Bob has twice held "dual standing" with a UCC conference and for 16 years was an active member of a UCC congregation in Connecticut.

"As an educator and group facilitator, I seek to foster a climate of mutual respect and support, to encourage diversity, mediation and voluntary growth in the learning circle, befriending the unexpected. Such a process is possible through relationship building, case review and content application, exploring interpersonal, group and systems dynamics, essential in congregational leadership and development." This is his fifth year leading a PLDG, and he co-leads the Newly Called Group.



The Rev. Dr. Ron Dieter – Carroll/Strafford

The PLDG program welcomes Ron Dieter as the newest facilitator. He currently functions as a hospital Chaplain, following his 40 years of experience as a NH Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist. His work provides an orientation toward the Spiritual process of healing and transformation, often during times of change, loss, and transition. He leads the Retired Clergy Group for the NH Conference.

He received specialized training in family therapy at the Kantor Family Institute. He is the former Director of Senior Enrichment Services, a pioneering mental health program for the aging in central New Hampshire.

Ron is an ordained American Baptist (ABC/USA) minister. He values the spiritual resources of individuals to achieve healing of the whole person.

In describing his style Ron states a common question that he asks is "Are you willing to bet on you?" It's important for clergy (and others) to invest in themselves in order to grow and realize the gifts within. Group time will focus on self-care of members, congregational case studies, theological reflection and what makes for renewal.