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

The Rev. Bill Beardslee - Merrimack Association (Concord)

Bill is an ordained United Church of Christ Pastor for 34 years and a Pastoral Counselor for 26+ years. Ordained in 1985 he has served churches in MA and NH, currently serving the Deering Community Church, UCC.

Bill has been a Fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors which is recently merged with The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. He now practices privately at ReNewal Counseling and Spiritual Guidance, Keene. He has served as a Hospice Chaplain and a per diem school counselor with Dublin, High Mowing and Monadnock Waldorf Schools.

Bill brings the tools of Family and Inner Family Systems as well as Jungian oriented Depth Psychology, an open heart and listening ear. Together we will engage in deep listening, personal exploration, support and case presentations to deepen our self and systems awareness.

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 eleventh year as a facilitator for the PLDGs.

Meg’s group 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 – Carroll/Strafford 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 Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, 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 tenth 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. Dr. P. Mark Watts – Rockingham Association (North)

Mark is an ordained United Methodist minister for 44 years who has provided pastoral psychotherapy for 38 years. He served Pastoral Counseling Services as President/CEO for 22 years before stepping down to provide full-time pastoral psychotherapy at PCS and his private office. He is a NH Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist and a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Mark returns for his eleventh year as facilitator of a PLDG.

In his groups, Mark uses a case study format that incorporates systems and psychodynamic personality theories. This approach helps group members understand issues in the parish and pastoral leadership in a safe and confidential environment.
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 six 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 (Hopkinton)

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 fourth year leading a PLDG, and he co-leads the Newly Called Group.