



Our churches face change, encounter differences and can struggle to manage conflict. This can often impact the health and wellbeing of many in our churches. MCC is partnering with Place for Hope to make available two offerings of the **Living Well with Differences course**. One in September 2022, and one in October/November 2022 .

Living Well with Differences is an online course designed for church leaders who would like to better equipped to recognise and respond well to differences, change and conflict in our churches. It provides an introduction to the dynamics of conflict in ourselves and in faith communities and provides tools for positively addressing conflict and helping create a safer environment.

What will be involved?

Participants will be required to participate in 4 online sessions. Each participant will receive a workbook that contains the content covered, as well as reflective tasks that can be completed between sessions. Each participant will receive a certificate on completion of the course.



What will the course include?

- 1. Understanding conflict:** We will share what we mean by conflict, and how it appears in our churches; we will also begin to explore our different approaches to conflict, and how we respond.
- 2. Conflict transformation skills:** Working with real life scenarios, we will explore how conflict escalates. In doing so, we will consider tools and techniques to 'lower' the level of conflict, enabling us to work constructively with disagreements in different settings.
- 3. Responding to Challenging Behaviour:** We will explore how we can respond with dignity and respect as our core values to bullying and harassing behaviour in our church communities. The course guides participants through the dynamics of bullying, a deeper understanding of the dynamics of power and equips them with the basic skills to become more confident with people displaying such behaviour.
- 4. MCC Context:** We will look at the internal policies and mechanisms in the Metropolitan Community Church for handling conflict-related complaints.
- 5. Additional Resources:** Further links and a reading list will be provided for further exploration of the topics covered in the course.

Who will facilitate the course?

The course will be facilitated by two Place for Hope Practitioners, experienced in training others in conflict transformation and mediation.

About Place for Hope

Place for Hope accompanies and equips people and faith communities so that all might reach their potential to be peacemakers who navigate conflict well. We want every community **to be a place for hope.**

