

Living Well with Differences programme 2024 Europe, Africa, Australia

- Would you like to feel more confident when engaging on difficult issues?
- Would you like to tackle hot topics with open, honest, and loving communication?
- Have you struggled to have a meaningful conversation with someone who opposes your views?
- Would you like to respond more positively when a conversation gets heated?

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. Living Well with Differences programme is an online course designed for church leaders and lay community members who would like to be better equipped to recognise and respond well to differences, change and conflict in churches. It provides an introduction to the dynamics of conflict in ourselves, others and in faith communities and provides tools for positively addressing conflict and helping create a safer and more enabling environment where all can flourish.

Living Well with Differences course helps participants learn how to recognise and understand the signs of potential tensions and sources of conflict earlier and respond with confidence. We will explore what conflict 'looks' like in our faith communities, explore different approaches and responses that can help develop your skills in transforming relationships and navigating tricky conversations. Seven two-hour sessions will cover the a range of key topics including:

- *What is my preferred communication style when in a tense or heated conversation?*
- *What are the different levels of conflict and how can I recognise them?*
- *How do we meet well and communicate with love in faith communities?*
- *How can I equip myself with tips, tools and skills to respond with confidence in those times when there is a difference of opinion, tensions emerge, or when change and transition is happening?*

7 Bite-sized 2-hr online modules & closing Peer Learning Circle

For Australia, Africa, & Europe

(9- 11 am UK time, unless otherwise stated) 10am SAST/6pm AEST

Module 1. Understanding Conflict & how it escalates

Noticing how language changes when conversations get heated and tools to help you lower the temperature.

12th June (pre-requisite, when attending later modules)

Module 2. Understanding Personal Conflict Management Styles

Understanding your own responses and approach to conflict and that of others, helping you to read the situation and respond better when conversations are heated.

19th June (pre-requisite, when attending later modules)

Module 3. Communication Skills for Conflict Situations

Communication tips and tools in dealing with difficult conversations- ways to lower the temperature.

3rd July

Module 4. Conflict in Church Settings

What does conflict 'look like' in church settings, what are the distinctive features and how to respond out of love and grace.

1st August

Module 5. Understanding and managing Challenging Behaviours

Noticing patterns of challenging behaviour which can sometimes be regarded as bullying and harassing behaviour. Tools to help manage and respond to such behaviour.

12th September

Module 6. Dealing with Difficult Conversations

Preparing for and practicing for those difficult conversations.

2nd October

Module 7. Growing a healthy church culture

Responding to conflict in our churches as a means of opportunity to grow and learn.

Creating a healthy culture towards conflict shared by the whole community

(08.30-10.30 am UK time) 10:30am SAST/7:30pm AEDT

30th October

Peer Learning Circle – opportunity to Q & A and enhance learning

An opportunity to come share specific questions, listen to each other and deepen our learning on living well with differences.

(08.30-10.30 am UK time) 10:30am SAST/7:30pm AEDT

6th November

Contact Rev Cathy Alexander at revcathyalexander@MCCchurch.net to register