

## Your Church – The Family of God?

An Elder Training Workshop Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – **First Presbyterian Church, Rome**

*You're an elder. You love St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. You always think of it as a warm family of faith. But why do session meetings feel tense? Why did the congregation get so stirred up over the new organist's salary? And why do the values of Jesus Christ fall by the wayside when a crisis turns up?*

Family Systems Theory describes how we repeat behaviors learned in our own families; some good, some not, and often invisible. This is a workshop for elders, young and old, inexperienced and veteran hands. You'll hear Eight Principles that come out of experiences in a family system. And, you'll learn Four Myths about communication that organizations (churches too) often swallow whole.

### Part 1 (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Bible Lesson: Genesis 37, Joseph and his Brothers

The importance of family in our lives:

Family Systems is **not a gimmick or a quick fix**. It is not a way to banish conflict. It is not a way to grow your church larger. It is a way "doing church" which involves seeing and acting responsibly.

Explaining the Eight Principles of any System.

### Part 2 (10:30 – 12 noon)

Bible Lesson: Acts 15:36-41, Paul and Barnabas part

The problem of communication:

Whales don't have libraries and chimps haven't invented telephones. Complex language and literacy are unique attributes of humanity. These abilities have allowed us to expand and develop civilizations. Yet even using these powerful tools **we often fail to communicate**.

Explaining Four Myths about communication.

Take-aways:

- You are not alone. You are in a family.
- Changing any system begins with the self.
- Successful communication requires honesty.

Follow up:

If you tell us this workshop was helpful we'll dig deeper with those who want follow-up sessions about how to apply what you learn in your church family.

Register here:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

USPS Address (another **gift** coming your way, and no shipping and handling charges!):

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/City : \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(Hand in, or, return to Stuart C. Wattles, 5330 Amalfi Drive, Clay, N.Y. 13041)