

**LICENSED LAY MINISTRY (LLM):
PASTORAL CARE**

Arelia Donaldson, St Philip's Church, Jacksonville:

This course has exceeded my expectations. From the first day when we were asked to write the Spiritual Autobiography it allowed me to look at myself. I remember things that I had forgotten about me. It made me remember good times, tough times, and times when I was afraid. But I survived with God's help. I learned things about myself; I enjoyed sharing it with others and I enjoyed learning about others in my class. What a great exercise to start off the class. In such a brief time it made us all trust each other with our true selves.

We just read several chapters on 'Men Don't Cry ,,,Women Do'. The book explained how everyone grieves differently. In families that lose their loved ones, each can grieve in different ways, and we must accept and adapt to each of their needs. Men do not show grief like women who seek support groups and cry. The book points out that there are also different kinds of loss; it could be divorce, loss of a job, all these events can affect how people deal with these disappointments differently. Learning to recognize the different ways that men and women deal with their loss. We must also remember that we cannot put men in one category and women in another category. We must open our minds and provide comfort to people who need help, regardless of how they demonstrate their loss.

Barbara Stevenson, St Mark's Church, Jacksonville:

The exploration of my personal traits and family connectivity has been eye opening . . .I believe the Genogram work was surprisingly valuable to me as a person, seeking the family links of strengths and weaknesses. It will allow me to view my historical family in a much clearer light . . . Kubler-Ross' book and "Men Don't Cry, Women Do" were truly a challenge to read and absorb. I feel better for having read them but they really took some concentration.

Patricia Letchford, St Thomas Church, Palm Coast

I don't know that I have just one [book or class session]. For me, each built on the last to help us look at different aspects of this work of being present for others. Also, each one was like a section on a "tapas" platter - a nibble here and a nibble there - enough to peak my interest into digging deeper on my own. As we move closer to the end of the course, I see how they are all bits and parts of a complete meal, independent of one another but so connected and relevant.

Actually, I think that [the course] could be very useful as "continuing education" for ALL ministers, lay and ordained, to do a run-through as a refresher, if you will.

George Letchford, St Thomas Church, Palm Coast

I took the [previous] Licensed Lay Worship Leader course and was impressed with the course material and the instructors. This encouraged me to take the Pastoral Care Class to help me feel

more prepared. The instructors and the course material have been inspiring. It was well planned and the instructors were knowledgeable and experienced.

[I found most helpful] the book *On Death and Dying*, *The Wounded Healer* and the Enneagram. I learned about myself and hope this will help me with pastoral care.