

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

GRACE SCOTT FUND FOR PASTORAL CARE
New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ
administered by Pastoral Counseling Services

Pastoral Leadership Development Groups (PLDGs) will be offered in the fall of 2024 for ongoing professional support, personal growth as individuals in ministry, and building skills to sustain living out the call in these demanding times. These groups provide a safe setting to develop one's identity and practice as a clergy person.

PLDG facilitators are trained as pastoral psychotherapists, CPE supervisors, and/or specialists in systems theory as applied to the church. Groups will meet virtually, with an option to meet in person twice during the year, if participants decide. The groups are open to all Authorized Ministers of the NH Conference of the UCC. Tuition is \$250, which covers ten meetings and is payable in full or in installments if needed (no tuition required for retirees).

In addition to four parish-based PLDGs, groups focused on three specialty areas are offered:

- Newly Called – for parish clergy who are new to ministry and/or new to the NH Conference
- Members In Discernment – for those discerning their call while in care of an Association of the NH Conference
- Retired Clergy – for those no longer serving in active ministry or will soon be entering retirement (two groups will be available this year).

Contact a designated facilitator listed below to be considered for the group in which you are interested.

For general questions, contact David Reynolds, PLDG Administrator, at (603) 533-8377 or dbr@pcs-nh.org.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Facilitator Descriptions and Group Contacts

The Rev. Robert Anderson – (914) 261-4304 • rgand43@gmail.com

Parish Based Group A • Previously met in Hopkinton • 2nd Wednesday 10am-12pm



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 ninth year leading a PLDG.

The Rev. Dr. Margaret B. Hess – (603) 930-3456 • meg@makegladness.com

Parish Based Group B • Previously met in Nashua • 2nd Wednesday 1-3pm



Meg is a NH Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist practicing in Nashua, NH. An ordained American Baptist minister, she served as Minister and Interim Minister to ABC/USA congregations in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for 25 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. She was adjunct faculty in preaching at Andover Newton Theological School for over 30 years. Meg is a Professional Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation and is on the faculty of the Mindfulness Coaching School. She returns for the seventeenth year as a facilitator for the PLDGs.

Meg's groups 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. Rebecca Maccini – (603) 867-4604 • revrwm@myfairpoint.net

Parish Based Group C • Previously met in Keene area • 2nd Wednesday 10am-noon



Rebecca has been in pastoral ministry for over 30 years. She has served churches in northern New England and abroad in these pastoral configurations: as an associate; co-pastor; bi-vocational/part-time; designated; transitional; and full-time. She led the PLDG group in the Southwest Association for nine 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 serves on the faculty of the Boston Leadership in Ministry out of Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta GA, a residential workshop that teaches clergy how to integrate 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. Dr. David B. Reynolds – (603) 533-8377 • dbr@pcs-nh.org

Parish Based Group D • Previously met in Rockingham area • 3rd Wednesday 9-11 am



David is Senior Staff at Pastoral Counseling Services (PCS) in Manchester, NH, where he has worked for thirty-five years. After stepping down from being Executive Director, he continues to provide spiritually integrated psychotherapy, spiritual direction and consultation. As an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a NH Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist, and a Clinical Member in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, 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 fifteenth year in leading a PLDG and is administrator of the program.

The PLDG he leads has 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 is given to Murray Bowen's concepts of anxiety, triangles, reactivity, self-differentiation, and emotional process in the context of the congregation. The group sometimes decides to read book or article together at the first gathering.

The Rev. Dr. Ron Dieter – (603) 731-7546 • rdieter463@gmail.com

Retired Clergy Group • meeting 3rd Friday • (Another group is in formation for those considering retirement or recently retired)



The Retired Clergy Groups of the PLDG program is facilitated by Ron who is in his fourth year. He recently retired as a hospital Chaplain, following his 40 years of experience as a NH Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist. His work provides an orientation toward the Spiritual process of healing and transformation, often during times of change, loss, and transition. Ron is specially trained in family therapy by the Kantor Family Institute. He is the former Director of Senior Enrichment Services, a pioneering mental health program for the aging in central New Hampshire.

Ron is an ordained American Baptist (ABC/USA) minister. He values the spiritual resources of individuals to achieve healing of the whole person. In describing his style Ron states a common question that he asks is "Are you willing to bet on you?" It's important for clergy (and others) to invest in themselves to grow and to realize the gifts within. Group time will focus on self-care of members, congregational case studies, theological reflection and what makes for renewal.

The Rev. Rebecca Maccini – (603) 867-4604 • revrwm@myfairpoint.net

Newly Called Group • 2nd Thursday 10am-noon



The Newly Called Group is for those clergy newly called to a UCC church in New Hampshire. This group generally meets over zoom once a month (Sept. - June) on the second Thursday at 10am.-noon. The group may meet physically if there is interest. Beginnings, endings and transitions are discussed along with the challenges and joys of becoming part of and leading a new congregation. The focus of the group is based upon the needs and interests of the participants. Short didactics about congregational emotional process, and other topics of interest that lead to deeper discussion and support ministerial leadership have been conducted.

The Rev. Joel Eaton - (603) 545 -5505 • jeaton@hnhinfo.org

Members-In-Discernment Group • 2nd Wednesday 4:30-6:30pm



The PLDG program welcomes Joel to facilitate the MID group. He is a Board Certified Chaplain and CPE educator serving at Havenwood Heritage Heights, a continuing care retirement community in Concord, New Hampshire. Prior to becoming a chaplain, Joel served as a local church pastor. His own path to ordination was nontraditional, serving as a licensed pastor while completing seminary and ordination requirements. Ordained in the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire, Joel recently found a new ecclesial home for himself in the New Hampshire Conference through a process for gaining standing that shared features of the MID process, including writing to the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers. He has an enthusiasm for reflective practice and is a skilled and empathetic facilitator of group processes. Drawing on his own experience he compassionately accompanies CPE interns on their unique journeys of vocational discernment and becoming.