



Wood River Mennonite Holding A Conflict Management Seminar

Do you seek out conflict? Do you avoid conflict at all costs? Do you enjoy directly challenging someone who you believe is wrong? Or do you dread the thought of disagreeing with someone?

The Wood River Ministerial Association is hosting a workshop titled "Conflict in the Church: Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation." It will help you discover your personal approach to conflict, will increase self-awareness of your conflict style, and will help you become better at handling conflict in your church. It will promote your personal growth as a disciple of Christ by encouraging thoughtful integration of Christian faith with practical skills for managing conflict. It will influence your life beyond the church as well. You will be able to take the knowledge you gained and apply it to your family and to your work; you may find yourself more confident managing conflict throughout your life.

This workshop is not specifically for churches currently in conflict. In fact, it is primarily for churches that are stable and simply want to prevent destructive conflict in the future. This workshop is like an oil change for your car. You don't change the

oil in your engine because there is something wrong with it. You change your oil as a preventative measure, to make sure that your engine is cared for properly. In the same way, healthy communication and handling conflict are skills that can be learned. And they are best learned when things are calm, as a preparation for when conflict eventually happens.

The workshop is led by Elizabeth Troyer-Miller, a Wood River resident. Troyer-Miller has been a mediator and facilitator in Nebraska since 2009, and currently works for Central Mediation Center in Kearney. She has a Masters Degree in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution from Creighton University. She also is a member of the Conflict Management Team of Central Plains Mennonite Conference, which provides training and dispute resolution services for member congregations.

The workshop takes place at the Wood River High School Commons Area on Friday, November 8 from 7:00-9:30 pm and Saturday, November 9 from 9:00 am-4:15 pm. Registration for the workshop is \$35, and includes snacks, Saturday lunch, training manual, and a personal conflict style inventory. Registrations are due by October 18. For questions or to receive a registration form, please talk to your Pastor or contact Pastor Matt Troyer-Miller at 308-380-3852.