

Format

This 42 hour course consists of two three-hour sessions per month over a period of seven or eight months.

Learning will occur through reading, lectures, discussions, family of origin presentations, and case studies.

Tuition

The cost of the program is \$650. A registration fee of \$100 is to be paid when registering and the balance (\$550) is due on the first day of the program. The program is limited to 8 participants. A minimum of 5 students will be needed for it to be offered.

Texts

Generation to Generation
by Dr. Edwin H. Friedman's

Creating A Healthier Church
by Dr. Ronald Richardson's



Living Systems is a leading West Coast provider of counselling, education, training & research based on Bowen family systems theory.

Living Systems is a registered charity. The work of the Society is supported by donations, memberships and grants.

For program information and application procedures, contact:

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Using Family Systems Theory in Your Ministry

A program for clergy and lay church leaders

Randall Frost, M.Div
Director of Training & Research

Part-Time
October to May
or January to July
North Vancouver, BC

Offered by



Formerly North Shore Counselling Centre

www.livingsystems.ca

Using Family Systems Theory in Your Ministry

Family Systems Theory describes the emotional processes that regulate human functioning both in families and in organizations.

Dr. Edwin Friedman, in his popular books *Generation to Generation* and *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix*, and Dr. Ronald Richardson in *Creating a Healthier Church*, have applied the concepts of Family Systems Theory to the church setting. Both authors have provided valuable insights for religious leaders.

This eight-month program for clergy and church leaders:

- Offers a comprehensive introduction to Family Systems Theory
- Seeks to show how systems concepts apply to the organizational life of the church and its ministry
- Provides an opportunity for practical “hands on” use of the theory
- Invites participants to reflect on the implications of systems concepts for pastoral leadership, personal faith, and theological understanding.

Additional Learning

Family Systems Theory provides insights into:

- How particular emotional upsets keep recurring in a congregation, and how leaders can function to create a different outcome
- How to relate more helpfully (and with less personal stress) to some of the difficult people in the church
- How this different concept of leadership can make being a church leader more enjoyable and less complicated
- How crises of faith may be intimately related to family issues
- How stress is often related to one’s position in the system rather than to the workload
- How family systems concepts can inform preaching, teaching, caring and administrative functions in the church
- How these concepts can help you in your own personal and family life.

The Program Leader

Randall Frost, M.Div, is a Presbyterian minister who currently is Director of Training and Research at Living Systems.

He is a fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counsellors and a registered clinical counselor with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors.

Randall Frost was Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies and Director of Supervised Ministry at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana from 1978 through 1991.

Rev. Frost trained at the Georgetown University Family Center under Murray Bowen, M.D., originator of Bowen Family Systems Theory and pioneer of family therapy. Randall Frost has been a frequent presenter at conferences and symposia that explore Bowen Theory and its many applications.

He has presented the following papers:

- The Responsible Self
- Faith and Functioning
- Differentiation in the Bible
- Thinking Systems with Engaged Couples