

CONGREGATION-BASED CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION THE SAMARITAN PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER

322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda, NY 14120
The Rev. Robert C. Spilman, CPE Supervisor, ACPE

Congregation-Based CPE Classes - Fall, 2004 - Spring, 2005

Congregation-Based Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) teaches pastoral care, pastoral leadership, and systems theory for clergy and lay ministers in the church. It is designed for experienced pastors and for ministers and seminarians new to pastoral work. Clergy and lay ministers strengthen pastoral and leadership skills and creatively address tension and conflict in the church. The program focuses on in depth “systemic” change that reduces congregational anxiety and addresses long-term issues in the church.

Applications are now being received for two classes: (1) a one-day per week program meeting from September, 2004, to January, 2005, and (2) a one-day every other week program meeting from November, 2004, to June, 2005. Both classes total 20 sessions.

Congregation-Based CPE includes four creative components:

- emphasis on pastoral and leadership issues in the congregation
- consultation on ministry using the case study CPE format
- application of Bowen Family Systems Theory to congregational life
- theological reflection on pastoral ministry

Participants use their current experience in their own churches as the “clinical material” for learning in the small group process of eight to nine students under the guidance of the CPE Supervisor. The program explores the dynamics of the congregation using the systems theory developed by Dr. Murray Bowen and applied to church leadership by Dr. Edwin Friedman. Participants explore how their position in their family of origin impacts their use of self in ministry.

The CPE program curriculum includes (1) case material from congregational ministry, (2) presentations and discussions on systems theory, theology, and pastoral ministry, and (3) reflection time designed to strengthen ministry.

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Accredited under the Catholic Health System, Buffalo, New York
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