

Conflict Resolution

Conflict is a predictable reality in the life of every congregation. You can expect it! Conflict is a result of people endeavoring to work and live together in a close and product way. Conflict is not "healthy" or "unhealthy" in and of itself. What becomes healthy or unhealthy about conflict in congregations is how it is addressed (or not addressed at all)!

The Florida-Bahamas Synod, in an effort to provide congregation members and leaders with the necessary skills for addressing congregational conflict in a healthy way, has formed a Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Ministry. This ministry is effected through a newly formed Conflict Resolution Committee which consists of pastors and lay persons who have been trained by Dr. John Savage of L.E.A.D. Consultants, Columbus, OH, in conflict management skills. Chaired by the Rev. Dr. Bobbie Blackburn, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bradenton, FL, this team of consultants is available to work with individual congregations that are experiencing unhealthy conflict and to do educational seminars for conferences and mission districts that wish to improve communication and problem-solving skills before major conflict erupts.

If you have an interest in a consultant working with your congregation, please contact Pastor Blackburn at **Garryglass@aol.com**. Fees for the consultation process are arranged on the basis of average worship attendance to make this service possible for any congregation desiring assistance. If you would like to host an educational event for several congregations in your area, please also contact Pastor Blackburn, who will put you in contact with a consultant in your area.