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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Polarization is everywhere. It is in our society, in our families, in our politics, and in our congregations.

Author, pastor, and pastoral counselor, Ronald W. Richardson, brings his experience with Bowen theory to the challenge of polarization. The conference will look at how a leader's work on differentiation of self can help a group avoid polarization and when it does occur, help to manage it. Staying thoughtful, clear, and connected, leaders can embody a principled call to ministry with others in a polarized environment.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

The Georgetown Family Center is approved as a(n):

- Independent provider of continuing education credit by the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners and the District of Columbia Board of Social Work.
- Approved provider of continuing education by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work for licensed social workers #SW-0419.
- NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP #6225) and may offer NBCC-approved clock hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. The ACEP solely is responsible for all aspects of the program.

The conference day provides a maximum of **six** hours of continuing education credit.

ABOUT THE BOWEN CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE FAMILY/GEORGETOWN FAMILY CENTER

The mission of the Center is to lead the development of Bowen family systems theory into a science of human behavior and to assist individuals, families, communities, and organizations to solve major life problems through understanding and improving human relationships. The Bowen Center for the Study of the Family/Georgetown Family Center is an independent institution incorporated as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization in the District of Columbia.



FAITH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

US AGAINST THEM? MINISTRY IN AN AGE OF POLARIZATION

The Bowen Center for the Study of the Family

Jan 17, 2019 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

GMU Arlington Campus, Founders Hall



SCHEDULE

8:30 Registration

9:00



Theoretical Considerations for Understanding Polarization

Edward J. Henley, DMin

Edward Henley's clergy experience includes interim service in nine congregations, as well as a pastorate of sixteen years. This service included the merger of two congregations, sale of properties, and the building of a new campus. He continues his service in the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida.

9:20



Us Against Them?

*Ronald W. Richardson
MDiv, DMin*

Ronald W. Richardson is an accredited Marriage and Family Therapist and Pastoral Counselor (retired). He was the Executive Director of a large, metropolitan-wide counseling agency in Vancouver, Canada. The agency was exclusively focused on the application of Bowen family systems theory in its clinical work and training. He trained therapists and pastors in Bowen theory for over 20 years. He is also a Presbyterian pastor and served churches for 10 years (in Wilmington, DE and Rochester, NY) before receiving his DMin degree. He has published 12 books, half of which offer applications of Bowen theory to congregational life and leadership. His book *Polarization and the Healthier Church* is the suggested reading for this one-day conference. It gives his theoretical understanding of Bowen's 8th concept – the Societal Emotional Process – and also gives four extended case studies from his own ministry around good outcomes in polarized situations.

SCHEDULE CONT'D

10:30 Break

10:45



Exploring Peace: A Case Study

*Ron Richardson and
Carol P. Jeunnette
MDiv, PhD*

Carol Jeunnette, a retired Lutheran pastor, has spent her career in ministry, study, and in the connection between Bowen theory and congruent theological perspectives. Currently, her focus is on writing, presenting, consulting, and expanding opportunities for clergy and faith leaders to connect to Bowen theory.

12:00 Lunch Break

1:15 **Ministry in an Age of Polarization**

Ronald W. Richardson, MDiv, DMin

2:45 Break

3:00 **Dialogue and Discourse: Presenters, Colleagues, and Participants**

4:30 Adjournment

“By enlarging the picture of what is involved when these heated debates arise, we can discover new avenues for approaching them.”

— Ronald W. Richardson, *Polarization and the Healthier Church*

FAITH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

The Faith Leadership Seminar is an online program for leaders in faith communities who have had training and experience with Bowen theory. It will involve case studies, learning sessions, and responses in large group online sessions, small group consultation sessions, and individual consultations with a faculty coach.

It is designed to follow two to three years in the Postgraduate Training Program, or other qualified training programs (i.e. network centers, Bowen faculty programs). Theory, theology, and the practice of ministry will all be included while focusing on our own functioning in that complex system of systems: the community of faith.

Each month will include:

- Two-hour online large-group meetings with presentations and discussions by both Bowen Center faculty and guest lecturers
- One and a half hour small-group consultation sessions or individual consultations (depending on the month) following each large-group meeting

The schedule for 2019-20 meetings will be on Mondays at 10am Eastern Time. Days will be selected to avoid most religious and national holidays. Small group and individual consultations with a faculty coach will follow each session.

Interested in learning more?

Contact Rev. Edward J. Henley at ehenley@thebowncenter.org or visit thebowncenter.org/fls