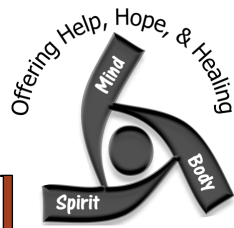


# Congregation Based Clinical Pastoral Education



**Samaritan Pastoral  
Counseling Center of the  
Niagara Frontier, Inc.**  
322 Old Falls Blvd.  
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

716-743-9117  
1-800-660-5053  
(outside Erie & Niagara Counties)

Classes also available in Rochester, NY  
and Jamestown, NY.

**CONTACT:**  
Rev. Robert C. Spilman  
363 Darwin Dr.  
Amherst, NY 14226  
Telephone: 716-839-4316 or  
716-479-7933 Cell  
robertspilman@congregationbasedc  
linicalpastoraleducationwny.org

For more information visit :  
Congregation-Based Clinical Pastoral  
Education of Western New York website  
[www.congregationbasedclinicalpastoraleducationwny.org](http://www.congregationbasedclinicalpastoraleducationwny.org)



## What is Congregation- Based Clinical Pastoral Education?

It is a continuing education program that teaches pastoral care and 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. They strengthen pastoral and leadership skills and creatively address tension and conflict in the church. The focus is on in-depth "systemic" change that reduces congregational anxiety and addresses long-term issues in the church.

### HOW IS THIS ACCOMPLISHED?

*Four creative components include:*

- Emphasis on pastoral and leadership issues in the congregation
- Consultation on ministry using the case study CPE format
- Application of Bowen Family System Theory to congregational life
- Theological reflection on pastoral ministry

### WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

- (1) A fall/winter unit meeting from September to January, one day per week
- (2) A spring unit meeting from February to June, two days every other week;
- (3) A summer/fall unit meeting from July to November two days every other week.

### WHAT DOES THE CURRICULUM INCLUDE?

- (1) Case material from congregational ministry
- (2) Presentations and discussions on systems theory, theology, and pastoral ministry
- (3) Reflection time designed to strengthen ministry

### WHERE DO CLASSES TAKE PLACE?

The program is offered locally at the Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center in N. Tonawanda, NY. Off-site venues are also utilized in Rochester and Jamestown.

## HOW DO PARTICIPANTS BENEFIT FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

They 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. Participants explore how their position in their family of origin impacts their use of self in ministry while working to manage anxiety and maximize strengths.

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAM'S ACCREDITATION?

It is accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) as a Satellite of Sisters of Charity Hospital, Buffalo, NY. The Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center of the Niagara Frontier includes Congregation-Based CPE as a component of its ministry offerings. It is certified for twelve CEU credits by the Eastern District of the Lutheran Church-- Missouri Synod.



## WHAT ARE THE PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS OF THE INSTRUCTOR?

**Rev. Robert C. Spilman,** M. Div., is an ordained pastor of the Lutheran Church-- Missouri Synod. He received his B.A. degree in history from the University of Rochester and his M. Div. degree from Yale University Divinity School. He completed his theological education at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis. He participated in the Edwin Friedman Family Systems seminars in Bethesda, MD, and continues to study Bowen Family Systems Theory in post-graduate seminars. In 1990, he was certified as a Full Supervisor in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. His special interest is applying the family systems perspective to the teaching of pastoral care and leadership in the congregation.



## PASTORS AND STUDENTS SAY:

*"What I have learned about myself in the context of the CPE peer group is that this kind of interaction is essential to being a pastoral care giver".*

*"The re-occurring theme that 'this is a lifelong process' in understanding self is most helpful. Thank you for your insightful manner and consistent leadership on this journey we have shared by God's grace".*

## SUPPORTING GROUPS

- Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod Eastern District
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Upstate New York Synod
- Lutheran Charities
- Network of Religious Communities
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Sponsoring Churches
- Western NY Conference United Methodist Church
- Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
- Concordia Lutheran Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario
- Northeastern Seminary Rochester
- United Church of Christ NY Conference
- Episcopal Diocese of WNY

## ENDORSEMENTS

- "I believe it is an excellent way for people to enhance their sense of pastoral identity, personal awareness, and functioning in ministry"

--Rev. Allen K. Griep, Former Executive Director, Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center

- "I commend the program and Rev. Bob Spilman for the care, competence, and excellence with which the course of study and participatory experience is carried out".

--Rev. Dr. David Belasic, Past President, Eastern District LCMS

- "Congregation-based CPE has enhanced ministry in this district of The United Methodist Church as pastors and candidates have learned more about their own leadership and its impact on people and family systems. I commend it to all those who would desire to grow in ministry effectiveness".

--Rev. Larry R. Baird, Cornerstone District Superintendent, WNY Conference, The United Methodist Church

