

We Are The Tools of Our Trade

Three Master Classes on Ministerial Relationships by The Rev Dr Deborah Pope-Lance

An opportunity to refresh your confidence and renew your call, these Master Classes are designed for experienced ministers who wish to explore ways to improve their expertise in the essential tools of our trade,— how we relate to and interact with those we serve—and to become more skillful and less stressed in how they approach ministerial relationships. Each master class reflects on our practice, seeks to enlarge our repertoire of skill, and encourages a strategic approach to ministerial relationships. Come to one or all three. If you are feeling too busy or too stressed, still come and be reminded of what's most important to keep you and your ministry well.

Monday, November 23, 2015

Berkeley, CA

We'll explore the dynamics of ministerial relationships and consider the changing role, image, status and work of ministers as well as the crazy-making interactions that ministerial relationships can occasion. Together we'll consider strategies for serving and surviving well amid the craziness and reflect on best practices for effective, ethical, sane, and sustainable ministerial relationships.

Monday, January 4, 2016

Sacramento, CA

We'll explore the dynamics of ministerial relationships and consider how a ministry setting's difficult history, whether a pattern of intense conflict, a poor track record with ministers, misconduct by previous clergy or other leaders, can adversely impact subsequent ministerial relationships for decades. Together we'll consider how this happens, why acknowledging the past is important to healthy futures, and consider what it takes to serve and survive well when the basic tools of your trade—ministerial relationships—are not working as they should.

Monday, February 29, 2016

Palo Alto, CA

We'll explore the dynamics of ministerial relationships and consider how chronic dysfunction becomes a pattern in ministry settings. How setting leaders, who, as Steinke noted, must be the immune cells in a system, lose the capacity to manage effectively. We'll look at how a difficult history changes a culture, how boundary violating behavior becomes the norm, how chronic dysfunction persists despite best efforts and best practices, and how a strategic approach to ministerial relationships can address chronic dysfunction, lower our own and others' anxiety and improve the health of the system.

Master Classes begin with coffee at 9 am and end by 3pm.

Come to one master class or to all three.

Additional opportunities for clergy colleagues to connect before or after may be arranged.

\$135 per program includes lunch. Registration hosted by www.riteherenow.com

The Rev Dr. Deborah Pope-Lance is a Unitarian Universalist minister and licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She consults nationwide with clergy, congregations and a variety of faith traditions and agencies, among these the Interim Ministry Network and The Alban Institute, and maintains a psychotherapy practice near Boston, Massachusetts. Over four decades she has served in parish, transitional and community ministries, taught at Andover Newton Theological School, and provided programs on the ethics of ministerial practice and congregational life for both lay and clergy leaders. Her expertise in addressing the unique challenges experienced by Afterpastors, those clergy who serve in the aftermath of a predecessor's misconduct, is evident in her substantial contribution to several Alban Institute books, of note, *When A Congregation is Betrayed: Responding to Clergy Misconduct*. Her 2011 Berry Street Essay, *Whence We Come and How and Whither*, an unflinching look at the harm clergy misconduct has inflicted on the church and its ministry, is required reading (<http://www.uuma.org/Page/BSE2011>) Deborah will be in residence in the Bay Area during this time and available for consultation. Contact her at revdpl@me.com