



Illustration by Elena Huegel.

TO BEND BUT NOT BREAK ~

LEADERSHIP FOR GROWING RESILIENT CONGREGATIONS

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017, 3~9 PM TO
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017, 9 AM~4 PM
AT THE UCC CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
BOXBOROUGH, MA**

Conflict and adversity touches each congregation at one time or another—through financial challenges, leadership transitions, personal loss, difficult decisions and differences. With the right skills and perspectives, these tensions don't have to lead to destructive quarrels, but can be opportunities for creativity and spiritual growth.

Dedicated to “inoculating” communities with greater resilience in order to respond to these challenges in life-giving ways, the day-and-a-half workshop is particularly designed for teams of pastor and lay leaders. Others who will benefit from the program include chaplains, educators, denominational heads and those involved with healing or working with congregations and communities in times of trauma, turmoil or transition. This interactive training incorporates the basic skills, theory and theology of trauma healing and conflict transformation while engaging hearts, minds and bodies in the process.

This two-day workshop explores the basic ways a congregation gains greater resilience. Participants will learn to:

- **Clarify the Context**—Understanding the larger forces and patterns at play, the hidden effects trauma and conflict have on a community, and the critical need for resilience
- **Communicate Constructively**—Honing the essential skills of deep listening and dialogue
- **Create a “Container”**—Dealing with an anxious organization, maintaining healthy boundaries, and an environment conducive to creativity and conflict transformation
- **Chart a Course**—Engaging in processes for restoring resilience including facilitating spiritual reflection, addressing pressing problems, incorporating rituals for healing, creating a new narrative, and wrestling with issues of identity.

Pre-program preparation includes writing a brief team “case” from your congregation’s experience to be shared during our time together and suggested articles and books to read as background for the training. Teams from individual congregations will have time to reflect together and create a concrete plan for sharing new skills and insights. In addition, the program includes a two-hour follow-up support visit on-site with each participating congregation as they implement what they have learned.

Program cost is \$250 for a team of 3 (pastor + 2), and \$75 for each additional person, which includes workshop supplies and notebook. Each participating congregational team will be asked to bring a potluck cover dish to share.

For more information, contact Karen Nell Smith at kns.brookfield@gmail.com, 508-331-3081.

