

Matthew 18 Process for Church Confusion or Conflict

Hello. My name is Brian Bancroft. I am the chairperson for the Staff Parish Relations Committee here at Trinity UMC.

The SPRC and some members of our congregation took part in a training opportunity back in January 2021 called 'The Rule of Christ for the Church, A Mathew 18 Approach to Addressing Conflict.' The training was facilitated by Naomi Garcia, with whom we have worked in the past during the Church Unique process.

This training was not offered as a reaction to some event or conflict here at Trinity. It is available to all the United Methodist churches in the Michigan Conference. A church is a family, and from time to time, confusion, disagreements, and/or conflicts are bound to come up within a family. The members who took part were instructed in finding ways to help members of our congregation deal with confusion and solve conflicts that may arise within our church, and to do both of those things using the word of God as our guide.

We have put together a procedure consisting of eight steps. I know that eight steps may sound daunting, but a trained member(s) of our group will be there to help throughout the journey. And in some cases, clarity may be found within the first three or four steps! This is what a nurturing community is all about! Not all confusion, conflicts, or issues can be solved, but through in-depth, meaningful conversation, we may be able to move past and let go of the conflict.

If someone here within the church is confused about something or has a conflict or an issue that is bothering them, no matter how big or small, please reach out to the Matthew 18 team. Talking to someone who cares may be all you need to do to begin to solve or get past the situation.

The members of our group are listed on the other side of this sheet. Or you can call the church, (906)774-2545, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible. The Holy Spirit is with us, always!



In these challenging times, it's easy to get confused. It's possible to get caught up in conflict. It seems as though chaos and uncertainty are more frequent than ever.

You are not alone. The Matthew 18 group is here to help with situations at church that are challenging you. Please feel free to call and get a helping hand. Talking it out with someone who cares may be just what you need! Call the office, (906)774-2545, and leave a message or contact one of the following people.

Brian Bancroft, (920)858-6973

Beth Clark, (715)696-3773

Moira Cowling, (906)774-5130

Renee Grunewald, (608)963-2946

Pastor Geri Hamlen, (906)774-0064

Dean Laitinen, (906)396-4339

Wendy Mulka, (906)396-0405

Jack & Jill Noyce, (715)528-2084

Ephesians 4:2-3: -- *“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*

