



The Face of LCI

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Nancy Schrumm

A Unique Approach to LCI Training

We would like to highlight the Mid Atlantic Community Church (MACC) located in Crofton, Maryland, and their lead pastor and wife, Lew and Nancy Schrumm. Lew has served at the MACC since the spring of 2004. Prior to his current position, Lew served on a local church staff as the director of the small group ministry where he developed and led over 60 Life Groups. The MACC held its first worship service on Easter Sunday in 2004 and the church body continues to reach out to the community and strive to accomplish MACC’s mission to be a place where “friends become family!”



Lew and Nancy Schrumm

The Mid Atlantic Community Church has utilized the LCI training in a unique way. About a year ago, Lew and Nancy met with Cindy Hunter, a current LCI board member and a Maryland consultation group leader, to discuss the LCI training. After that meeting, Lew encouraged his entire staff, along with several leaders of Life Groups (MACC’s small group ministry), to attend the Level 1 training. Lew shares, “It was a great experience and we then felt we should go on to Level 2.” This past fall, the majority of the staff, several lay leaders, and a professional counselor who attends the church participated in the Level 2 training. To date, this is the first church where the pastor and staff participated together in the LCI training.

One of the church pillars is to develop a Life Group ministry and equip the group leaders to be able to deal with life issues. The Life Group leader is an integral part of the body of the church. “People don’t always need to connect with the pastor if we can provide trained lay counselors as Life Group leaders who are willing to open up their lives and help people who are struggling in some of the same areas that they have struggled. My vision is to have every Life Group leader run through the LCI Training,” shares Lew.

Lew has taught the Life Group leaders to be responsive to what group members share. He often reminds the leaders, “Don’t miss the God moment. Here is an opportunity to use what you have learned, to minister to those people at their deepest need, and to surround them like a family.”

In addition to developing the vision for the Life Group ministry, Lew and Nancy personally grew through the Level 1 and 2 training. Nancy shares, “We were taught to listen well, to ask the right questions, and to use empathy.” Lew adds, “It was a different approach from my tendency to fix people or give them a three-point assignment.”

Nancy attended her first LCI Level 1 training about eight years ago. “I felt like I was counseled for the first time in my life. I thought that I was going to learn how to help people but I didn’t realize that the training would first deal with me. I learned how to be more authentic with others,” says Nancy. As Nancy proceeded in the Level 2 training, she remembers, “I felt like I had moved forward and that Level 2 was a moment of self-awareness. I haven’t been the same since.”

The LCI training has also impacted the church staff in a number of ways. Lew said, “In the Level 2 training, people became transparent and tremendous healing occurred. It reminded me that God uses our weaknesses to help others. He will often take us back to our most vulnerable place and then turn around and use that in another person’s life.” It also helped the MACC staff to be more approachable and to have an open spirit towards one another. The staff has grown spiritually and use what they learned to be open with one another. One current staff member, Aaron Millman, shared, “The training was difficult but it was worthwhile. I gained the most valuable insights from Bill’s teaching. His ability

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LCI's New Board Members

LCI is pleased to introduce two new board members. Michelle Mays, who is in private practice in Leesburg, Virginia, has a Master of Arts in Counseling from Western Seminary and is a Certified Sexual Addiction Therapist, trained by Dr. Patrick Carnes. She specializes in treating sexual addiction, trauma, and codependency, and she also offers group therapy.



Michelle Mays

"Joining the board of LCI is a full-circle experience for me," she says. "Years ago, LCI was instrumental in setting me on the path

to become a licensed professional counselor and work with people the way I do today. LCI offers what I like to call a 'theology of the human heart' and provides a unique biblical foundation for understanding and addressing significant struggles that many individuals, couples, and families face. I look forward to serving and supporting LCI in training and equipping lay counselors to care well for members of their congregations."

In addition to her counseling practice, Michelle has over ten years' experience working with non-profit organizations. In 2000, she launched Envision, a consulting business providing program develop-

ment, fundraising, and marketing expertise to non-profit organizations around the country. She has also helped create new programs and training materials for a national crime victim assistance organization, co-edited the book



Ed Lawless

God and the Victim: Theological Reflections on Evil, Victimization, Justice and Forgiveness, and been involved in the area of international relief and development focused on global issues affecting women and children.

Ed Lawless and his wife, Cathy, are members of McLean Presbyterian Church in Virginia, where Ed was part of a team that implemented the church's lay counseling ministry. As a civil engineer and career federal employee, Ed looks forward to using his gift for organizing and presenting information to help churches as they consider starting their own lay counseling ministries.

"I was drawn to LCI as being a genuine, scriptural alternative to other counseling programs I had experienced," says Ed. "As Christians we know that it is only in Christ that we have hope for true change in our lives, and my strongest hope for the church is that it be transformed into a safe place for wrestling with our own brokenness. I strongly support the mission of LCI to help churches create that environment with their own ministries."

Ed has been a lay counselor at MPC for one year and has co-led a Level 2 small group.

LCI Spring Level 1 Training Dates:

Dates are being finalized for a Level 1 training session this spring. For up-to-date information, check our website at www.lciministry.org.

LCI Happenings

LCI's fall workshop, "Helping Others with Sexual Issues," offered help to counselors who serve those affected by the current sexual epidemic. The frank presentation by Dr. Bill Clark and Michelle Mays, a local professional counselor and Certified Sexual Addiction Therapist, covered sexual immaturity, deviancy, and addiction and was attended by local pastors, lay and professional counselors, and other church and ministry leaders.

If you missed the workshop or want to hear it again, you can download it on mp3. Please go to the LCI website, lciministry.org.

Your feedback

If you would like to receive future LCI newsletters electronically, please send an email request to info@lciministry.org, Attn: **Newsletter**. Then, you will no longer receive the newsletter via postal mail.

Where are you now?!

If you participated in Level 1 or Level 2 training and utilize this material in ministry, or your work, or have continued with further schooling, we would like to hear from you. Please email info@lciministry.org, Attn: **Newsletter**.

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to draw a person out has helped me in my own interactions with others.”

Another unique aspect of the church is how some of the professional counselors who attend the MACC support the lay counseling ministry and have even participated in the LCI training. Lew shares, “We have choices in how we approach counseling and the needs within our church. We are able to get people connected to others in the body and also provide referrals for professional care.”

What is next for the MACC and LCI? Lew would like to have the student ministry pastor and youth leaders participate in trainings. The MACC would also like to continue to focus on building up the marriages in their church and in the community.

No matter what direction the future takes, the MACC will stay focused on the ultimate goal: pointing others toward Jesus. Lew emphasized that as vital as the training is to the ministry, it is “only as good as the relationship that we can help someone develop with Christ.”

Counselor Q&A

Lay counseling is full of the unexpected—whether during the training process or in a counseling relationship. Exposure, self-examination, cliff-jumping, and risk-taking can be just as much a part of a lay counselor’s experience as for the person he or she is counseling! But at the same time that lay counseling is deeply challenging, it is also deeply rewarding.

If someone had the gifts and the calling to do lay counseling, why would you encourage them to pursue it? We asked three lay counselors to share their answers to that question. Here’s what they said.

If someone were gifted and called, I’d tell them to do lay counseling for two simple reasons. First, there is a need. We are surrounded by hurting people who need a safe place to wrestle with what is going on in their lives. They long for someone to walk alongside them and help them in their pain. Second, God will use it to change you. As you help someone else, you learn that you must rely on God and not on your own knowledge or ability. God deepens your dependence on Him and stretches your understanding of Him, leaving you changed forever.



Sharon Collignon

Sharon has been lay counseling at Bethany Community Church in Laurel, Maryland, for one year.

If someone were gifted and called, I would tell them to do lay counseling because the counsel-

ing experience provides a unique and enlivening opportunity for God to work through you in accomplishing His purposes in the lives of others. It is a dynamic ministry that allows you to go deeper with a brother or sister in Christ as he or she explores and begins to understand what God is doing in his or her life, especially in the midst of confusion, conflict, or suffering. In the end, you will find that the Lord is also working in your own life by drawing you into a deeper, more dependent relationship with Him.

Greg has been a lay counselor at the Church of the Epiphany in Herndon, Virginia, for two years.



Greg Conrad

If a person were gifted and called, I’d tell them to do lay counseling because you get to see and feel God use you to impact others. There is no greater feeling than to know that God has used you to help bring about change and repentance in someone’s life. It is truly a



Ailsa Johnson

privilege to enter someone’s world, and as a counselor, you get to watch and be part of the process of growth and repentance over and over again. It is a rich blessing that never fails to push me spiritually.

Ailsa is in her first year of lay counseling at Mid Atlantic Community Church in Crofton, Maryland.

Seasoned Event Planner Needed:

If you are a seasoned event planner or would like to help LCI in the planning of a future fundraising event, please email LCI at info@lministry.org, Attn: **Fundraising**.



“Delight is foreign to most of our experiences of God.

The absence of criticism is not the presence of His wild, sweet delight.”

Dan Allender

The Director’s Couch



We pause this month from our regular column featuring a local professional counselor involved with LCI. Instead, we would like to share a significant LCI occasion that occurred this past October.

LCI began with a relationship. A remarkable friendship that started in 1980 between Dan Allender, counselor, and his client, Barbara Giuliano. As God began healing Barbara, Dan saw a gift in her and began creating opportunities for her to use that gift by getting involved in the broken lives of others. Her reluctance gave way (as Dan continued to push!) when she began to see God stirring hope in the hearts of the hurting, through her own redeemed life. When Bill Clark began to oversee this process for Barbara, another friendship was forged and the vision of lay counseling began to come into focus. Through relationship and regeneration, LCI began and continues to grow.

LCI counselors and friends gathered on the afternoon of Oct 25, 2008, at McLean Presbyterian Church for a warm time of honor, celebration, and stories. Dan Allender was honored for his profound impact on our lives as a counselor, teacher, author, and friend. Stories were shared by six LCI counselors impacted by Dan, Bill, and Barbara. Through the stories, we were able to glimpse the “trickle-down” effect in these second and third generations of LCI counselors, now entering the lives of others in “brokenness and boldness.”

Daphne Rappaport was one of the six who shared her story. Daphne said, “I wanted to give Dan a picture of the ‘chain of healing’ that lay counseling put into motion in my life. To begin meeting with Barbara at such a crucial time in my life and to be given the gift of tender acceptance rather than judgment allowed me to seek God’s face and His healing. And, it now gives me the chance to join others in their journey and offer the tenderness of Christ.”

Becky Allender, Dan’s wife, said, “To hear the stories of those transformed by LCI-trained counselors was an afternoon unlike any other. It was one of the highlights of my life and the words spoken will be held with honor and kindness forever.”

The last 40 minutes of our time together was given to Dan to speak from his heart. He opened by telling us how God had begun his morning with the idea of “surrender.” His own choice to “surrender to honor” became a theme for others as Dan then turned to honor them. “I am so grateful for Barbara and Bill, Lou and Debbie. What they have created is one of the most remarkable training ministries I know in the country.”

Dan also gave a very personal and loving tribute to his wife, Becky, as well as Debbie and Lou for the price they pay as spouses of those involved in this kind of counseling ministry. One attendee said, “It was sweet and powerful. I felt almost like I had been allowed to eavesdrop on a tender, special moment.”



(l-r) Bill and Debbie Clark, Dan and Becky Allender, Lou and Barbara Giuliano

Dan also exhorted the LCI community to recognize that the “the church is starved for brokenness and boldness.” We are to walk into people’s lives with the gospel, having courage and taking risks, admitting our sin and failure to love. We are to be a “community of delight”— delighting in one another and recognizing the Father’s delight in us. “Delight is foreign to most of our experiences of God,” he reminded us. “The absence of criticism is not the presence of His wild, sweet delight.”

Barbara later reflected on our memorable afternoon together saying that it felt “God-touched.” It was amazing to watch how it all unfolded with creativity and warmth that could only be attributed to God. Martha Peterson, one of the six who shared, said, “Everyone’s words blessed me and I left smiling and praising God.” She was not the only one.

LCI News is published by The Lay Counselor Institute, P.O. Box 1758, Herndon, VA 20172-1758 571-490-3030

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Design and production by Rick Clark Illustration & Design.

Our Mission

The Lay Counselor Institute (LCI) is a non-profit organization that assists the local church in establishing and growing an effective ministry of biblical counseling by identifying and training caring and gifted believers who are grounded in their knowledge of the Bible and committed to biblical counseling.