



Church Reconciler Training – April 23-28, 2017
St. Matthews Lutheran Church – Calgary AB.

The grant money that was provided for our congregation to offset the cost of attending Church Reconciler Training workshop that was facilitated by the Ambassadors for Reconciliation Team of Ted Kober and Lynn Gergen's and several of their other members. I had the wonderful privilege of being a student during the week of April 23-28, 2017. We were led in breakout sessions and discussion groups and practical training that was intense and Scripture centered.

In our introductory session, we heard about what it meant to be: "To Go and be Reconciled." It is so important to be reconciled first to God before we attempt to be reconciled with others. On the cross, in our vertical relationship, God reconciled us to himself through Christ. We remember that we are his children, called to a lifestyle of repentance, receiving his forgiveness. In our horizontal relationship, we are called to be reconciled with other people for whom Christ has died. We confess our sins to the other person for whom we have sinned against, and we forgive as God forgave us through Jesus Christ, and restore others with gentleness. This is the most important and key concept of reconciliation.

Highlights included:

Our identity as baptized children of God in Christ and how it affects reconciliation. Is there any difference between conflict resolution and reconciliation?

Receiving God's forgiveness and what does forgiveness have to do with being reconciled to God? Do we need to confess our sin to other people in order to be reconciled to them?

Does my sin affect other people and prevent reconciliation?

One of the key points that we learned during the week was that reconciliation is not just a one-time event but that it is a lifestyle that needs to be lived out daily.

As we are ambassadors for Christ, we are called to be peacemakers in our lives as well whatever our vocation may be. We talked about how and why our church should set up and establish a reconciliation ministry.

The next major phase was: Coaching People Through Conflict.

This included: the role the coach 2 Timothy 2:24-26 moving from a person centered to a Christ --centered in the process. Being reconciled to God and applying Scripture in the conflict in the promotion of reconciliation to God to God, and one another in coaching.

We heard a presentation on what it meant to be a Mediator.

We discussed the mediation process from a Christian perspective and what it looks like when it is being carried out. We practiced role-playing in mediating

Although the week was jampacked with information from start to finish, it was an excellent opportunity that was well worth the time and the effort of coming to class. The hospitality of the people of St. Matthews Lutheran Church was absolutely incredible and they made sure that we were well looked in every way. Thank you again, for making it possible for me to attend, and God speed to all.

Rev. Robert Marshall

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