

# Connections

# Caring

CONFERENCE

Session Descriptions and Speaker Bios

## Table of Contents

Plenary Session .....	4
Breakout Session 1.....	5-10
Breakout Session 2.....	11-17
Breakout Session 3.....	17-22

## Alphabetical By Session Title

Called to Ministry, Caught in Conflict .....	10
Creatively Connecting: Attachment-Focused Intervention .....	6
Daring to Love: The Place and purpose of emotion in loving well .....	22
Emotionally Focused Therapy: Created to Connect .....	7
Ethical Considerations in Pastoral Care and Counseling.....	20
Ethics and Minors: Skill-building for Therapists.....	13, 18
Facilitating Groups that Change Lives.....	11, 18
Listening theologically: Training supervisors and clinicians how to integrate faith narratives into the counseling process.....	12, 18
Freedom Prayer: Praying with Clients and Others.....	15
Goodbye Asperger's; Hello Autism Spectrum Disorder.....	19
A GPS Faith: Helping adolescents navigate technology successfully.....	8
Helping Others Deal with Difficult People .....	4
Helping the Hurting: Practical Applications for Church Leaders.....	14
Making the Most of Brief Marital Counseling .....	17
One Heart, Two Homes: Co-parenting resources for Therapists to Use with Clients .....	16
Stolen laptops: How can a supervisor balance the ethical & legal responsibilities for protection of client information with the training needs of students and universities?.....	9
Suffering: Psychological and Theological Explanations .....	5
Teaching Couples to Love with the Brain in Mind .....	21

Session Descriptions and Speaker Bios

This year, *Caring Connections* offers several new and exciting features. First, Dr. Alan Godwin, Licensed Psychologist and author, will be our plenary speaker. His topic, *Helping Others Deal with Difficult People*, has been a favorite with those who have attended his workshops across the country. Both professional therapists and those in pastoral care roles will find this presentation practical and enjoyable. New for this year, *Caring Connections* is offering several specialty tracks comprised of related topics and practical techniques. For therapists who work with children and adolescents, programs are offered on topics such as attachment, ethics, co-parenting, and autism spectrum disorders. For counselors, the couples track offers attendees programs that include the newest research and techniques on neurobiology as it relates to relationships; brief marital therapy; Emotion Focused Therapy; and others. We are also excited to have two programs designed for clinical supervisors addressing the myriad challenges that come with supervision. For attendees who work in the pastoral world, we have multiple programs addressing topics such as adolescents and technology; helping others through suffering; addictions; ethics in pastoral care; conflict resolution; and more. Attendees may stay within one track or pick and choose. (Note: Programs that may be eligible for continuing education credit are marked as such.)

**8:00-9:30 AM**  
**Plenary Session**

**Helping Others Deal with Difficult People**

Alan Godwin, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist

Track: Clinical and Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

Difficult people lack what normal people possess—the ability and willingness to work through conflict problems. They're not interested in solving problems; they're only interested in being right. Attempts to problem-solve with people who lack problem-solving abilities are destined to fail so alternate methods must be used. This presentation discusses those methods. Particular attention will be given to counselors who are trying to help clients deal more effectively with these difficult and challenging relationships.

**Learning Objectives**

1. To help attendees understand how and why difficult people relate the way they do
2. To help attendees understand the negative effects of long-term exposure to difficult people
3. To help attendees understand the alternate methods to use when relating to difficult people
4. To give attendees some illustrative case examples of the alternate methods in practice

**Speaker Bio**

Dr. Alan Godwin is a licensed psychologist in private practice with 25 years of experience. Certified in Alternative Dispute Resolution, he helps individuals, couples, churches, and businesses develop better ways of handling conflict. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Godwin serves on the adjunct faculty of the Graduate Counseling Department of Trevecca University in Nashville, TN, where he teaches a class for doctoral students entitled "Psychodynamic Psychotherapies." He has also taught undergraduates and has guest lectured in the Marriage and Family department. He developed and presents Cross Country Education seminars entitled "Helping Adult Clients Grow Up: Blend Object Relations Perspectives Into Your Therapies for Stuck Clients" and "Happily Incompatible: Clinical Strategies for Helping Couples Resolve Their Differences." He has written for Deacon magazine and has been a guest on numerous radio and television programs across the U.S. and Canada. Dr. Godwin's book, *How to Solve Your People Problems: Dealing with Your Difficult Relationships*, released in August 2008, explains how and why conflict goes badly and how to make it go well with two types of people: reasonable and unreasonable.

Alan E. Godwin, Psy.D.

Licensed Psychologist

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**9:45-11:15 AM**  
**Breakout Session 1**

**Suffering: Psychological and Theological Explanations**

Frank Scott, Ph.D., LPC/MHSP

Track: Clinical and Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

This class will explore the problem of evil and suffering. Included: How do we explain suffering in light of a all loving and all powerful God? What is "suffering"? Productive and non productive suffering The uses of adversity. What is the healing process? Thoughts on the grief process. How our mind produces much of our own distress. Research on "happiness."

**Learning Objectives**

Attendees will learn about: 1. How our world view develops and contributes to our suffering; 2. How the ancient philosophers viewed suffering; 3. Suffering and the existence of God : possible explanations; 4. Myths about loss; 5. Adapting to losses in life; 6. Easing clients suffering -- focusing on thoughts, feelings and behavior.

**Speaker Bio**

Frank Scott PhD LPC/ MHSP

Frank Scott is the Director of the Lipscomb University Counseling Center. He has worked for over 30 years in ministry in church counseling centers, psychiatric hospitals, and in private practice. He has taught in four universities. He is an Approved Clincial Supervisor and has helped supervise many graduate students. His main areas of interest are in group therapy, sexual addiction, and theories of personality.

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**Creatively Connecting: Attachment-Focused Intervention**

Allison Clanton, MSSW, LCSW

Track: Clinical and Child

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

Numerous approaches focus on enhancing relationships, but many fail to utilize our biological drive toward connection. This course will give you an opportunity for experiential learning of interventions that enhance attachment by tapping into God's design for relationship development. The model of intervention can be individualized to treat relationship struggles throughout the life span, regardless of symptom presentation, and with respect to diversity.

**Learning Objectives**

1. List 5 presenting problems for which attachment-focused intervention may be effective
2. Understand the SCEN model of attachment-focused intervention
3. List several interventions for use with specific populations
4. Create a clear treatment plan--- including objective, measurable goals--- for attachment-related problems

**Speaker Bio**

Allison Clanton, M.S.S.W., is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at AGAPE. She earned her master's degree in Social Work from California State University, Fresno. Allison came to AGAPE with nine years' experience in community mental health settings where she provided counseling services and served as a Clinical Supervisor for other counselors. Allison works with a broad spectrum of clients including individual adults and couples. She has also worked with children and adolescents for a number of years and specializes in aiding families of children ages birth to five years old in dealing with attachment and regulation problems. Allison provides both therapy and clinical supervision through AGAPE and a private practice.

**Emotionally Focused Therapy: Created to Connect**

Kelly Bourque, MMFT, LMFT

Track: Clinical and Couples

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

Kelly Bourque, LMFT will take participants through the model of EFT for couples. She will present theoretical principles, theological backing, stages of therapy and specific interventions.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Present an empirically supported adult-attachment model for love
2. Address the “why behind the what”: our innate longing for intimacy
3. Explore the three stages in the EFT model, a process for change
4. Present a closer look at EFT in action

**Speaker Bio**

Kelly Bourque is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a private practice in Franklin, TN. She is a certified EFT therapist (Emotionally Focused Therapy) and is trained in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing). She is also a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and a lifetime member of the International Centre for Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy.

Kelly has developed a lecture series based on the intersection of EFT and God’s design for relationship. As a mom and a wife, she is passionate about living out in her own relationships what she has learned.

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**A GPS Faith: Helping adolescents navigate technology successfully**

Walter Surdacki, D.Min.

Track: Child and Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

This program will explore how technology impacts adolescents' social world and world view. It will provide valuable information about the internet, social media, and other forms of technology regularly consumed by today's teens. Counselors, ministers, and pastoral helpers who work with teens are urged to attend.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Discover, "What is technology doing to teens?"
2. Look at HOW teens are using technology to meet deep psychosocial need.
3. Detail, "A Theology of Technology"
4. Discover "Apps those working with adolescents need to know about"

**Speaker Bio**

Dr. Walter Surdacki is a professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN where he teaches various Youth Ministry and practical ministry courses as well as Spiritual Disciplines and Spiritual Formation courses. He has served in full time ministry for over 16 years working at the Torrance Church of Christ, Malibu Church of Christ and Campbell Church of Christ. He currently volunteers with the youth ministry at the Otter Creek Church where his daughters are in the youth group. He is a regular speaker and teacher at events all over the country. Walter and his wife, Amy, have two daughters, Madeline and Abby. Walter loves to travel, cook, Legos, snowboard, read, write, and ride rollercoasters. Walter Surdacki DMin in Youth & Family Ministry, Fuller Seminary, MDiv Fuller Seminary, MS in Ministry Pepperdine University, BS in Biblical Studies Institute for Christian Studies. Walter.surdacki@lipscomb.edu 615.594.8898

**Stolen laptops: How can a supervisor balance the ethical & legal responsibilities for protection of client information with the training needs of students and universities?**

Melanie H. Morris, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist, HSP

Track: Clinical and Supervision

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

Educational requirements to observe students' clinical work create both ethical and legal dilemmas for clinical sites that must insure a client's confidentiality. This workshop will address the worst case scenario: stolen devices containing client videos. A panel including the educational institution, a clinical site, and a technology expert will address the problem and remedies for safe transport of client information.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify ethical and legal responsibilities for protection of client information when in transport to students' educational institutions.
2. Learn how clinical sites have dealt with the worst case scenario of stolen client information.
3. Understand technological options for safe, ethical handling of client information.

**Speaker Bio**

Dr. Melanie Morris is a Licensed Psychologist, Health Service Provider in Tennessee; her doctorate is in Clinical Psychology from the University of Mississippi. Her clinical experience includes university counseling centers, other outpatient mental health centers, psychiatric inpatient work, and prison work. Currently, Melanie serves as the Clinical Director for Graduate Studies in Counseling at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, where she manages the clinical experiences for the counseling students. Before LU, Melanie was an Assistant Professor at Freed-Hardeman University, working half-time as psychology/counseling faculty and half-time in the University Counseling Center. Melanie enjoys working out, reading, traveling, and family time.

Melanie Morris

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**Called to Ministry, Caught in Conflict**

John York, Ph.D.

Track: Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

*\*\*\* This program may not meet continuing education requirements for all license types. Conference registrants should check their appropriate licensing rules for clarification.*

**Program Description**

This program will discuss the ways in which our calling as "ambassadors of reconciliation" so often evolves into the role of managers of conflict.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Discuss how our use of Scripture sometimes creates conflict rather than resolving it.
2. Discuss the five responses to conflict in interpersonal and interpersonal settings.
3. Discuss approaches to apology and forgiveness that produce healing rather than deepening the wounds.

**Speaker Bio**

John is Associate Dean and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Hazelip School of Theology/Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. Prior to joining the Lipscomb faculty in 1998, John served in full time ministry with congregations in Oregon, Texas, and Tennessee. He also taught at Columbia Christian College for seven years (1977-80, 85-89). John and his wife, Anne, have two sons, Matt (Lipscomb University '03) and Brad (Abilene Christian University '05). They also have three grandchildren. He received his training from Abilene Christian University (B.A. M.A., M.Div.), Emory University (Ph.D., 1989), and most recently Lipscomb University (M.A. in Conflict Management, 2011).

12:30-2:00 PM  
**Breakout Session 2**

**Facilitating Groups that Change Lives (Part 1)**

Stephen James, M.A., LPC/MHSP

Track: Clinical

CEU Hours: 3 (2 part class)

**Program Description**

One of the most powerful change agents we have in our arsenal as people helpers is group therapy. Group therapy environments offer opportunities to healing, recovery, and maturity that cannot be found in other areas. Many people helpers are intimidated by starting, facilitating, maintaining groups.

**Learning objectives**

1. Expose participants to the basic theory and practice of group therapy.
2. Help participants identify different types of therapeutic groups and their strengths and liabilities.
3. Give participants some practical tools, strategies, and for facilitating better groups as well as learn the most common mistakes made in group therapy facilitation.
4. Provide participants with first hand practice and experiencing the power of group process.

**Speaker Bio**

Stephen James, LPC/MHSP, NCC is a private practice psychotherapist in Nashville, TN where he provides individual, marital, and group therapy. He received his MA in Counseling from The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology. He has published numerous articles and is the coauthor of five books including the bestselling *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys*. Stephen speaks regularly on the topics of marriage, family, and parenting; masculinity; story; and spiritual authenticity. You can find out more about him at [www.sagehillcounseling.com](http://www.sagehillcounseling.com). Stephen James, LPC, MHSP

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**Listening theologically: Training supervisors and clinicians how to integrate faith narratives into the counseling process (Part 1)**

Joy Samuels, D.Min., LPC/MHSP

Track: Clinical and Supervision

CEU Hours: 3 (2 part class)

**Program Description**

Supervisors trained to guide interns to integrate psychological theory and interventions might find themselves unprepared to facilitate theological theories and interventions. This seminar will provide both the supervisor and the practicing clinician a beginning rubric for listening and responding theologically.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify key theological terms for listening theologically.
2. Identify key spiritual discernment themes in your client's stories.
3. Explore how listening theologically to your client's story can shape the counseling process.

**Speaker Bio**

Rev. Dr. Joy Samuels, LPC-MHSP, Fellow in Thanatology: Joy Samuels received her Master of Counseling Psychology from California State University at Northridge, and her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. She is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and is a Licensed Professional Counselor (Mental Health Service Provider) in the State of Tennessee. She has worked in church settings as Director of Christian Education and Education Minister, in Hospice and Hospitals as a Chaplain, and in both private practice and US Government settings as a Clinical Counselor for over 30 years. She currently teaches in the psychology department at Lipscomb University, Candler School of Theology at Emory and maintains a private counseling practice.

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**Ethics and Minors: Skill-building for Therapists (Part 1)**

Jake Morris, Ph.D., LPC/MHSP &

Terry Casey, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

Track: Clinical and Child

CEU Hours: 3 (2 part class)

**Program Description**

This interactive program uses ethical scenarios and an interactive format to provide participants with an experience that will increase their confidence and competence in avoiding and dealing with challenging ethical dilemmas that pertain to counseling clients who are minors. Small groups are used to engage all participants in a process that is not only educational but actually fun.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Learn how to identify potential ethical and legal pitfalls related to counseling with minors before they develop into crises.
2. Develop practical skills for successfully navigating complex or problematic professional situations that pertain to clinical supervision
3. Learn how to apply the different evaluative perspectives necessary to evaluate ethical dilemmas.
4. Build confidence in ability to properly handle difficult or perplexing ethical scenarios.

**Speaker Bios**

Dr. Casey is a Licensed Psychologist, HSP. He obtained his master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Abilene Christian University and his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas A&M University after a one-year internship at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX. Since 1995 he has provided clinical services at AGAPE in Nashville, TN with a wide range of clients and has served as the Clinical Director since 2000. Terry currently divides his time among direct services to clients, clinical supervision and administrative activities. He also teaches Ethics and Professional Issues in Counseling in Lipscomb University's master's programs in Professional Counseling and Psychology. Dr. Casey is the Chair of the Ethics Committee for TLPCA.. Contact: [tcasey@agapenashville.org](mailto:tcasey@agapenashville.org); 615-781-3000

Dr. Morris obtained his M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education from the University of Mississippi. While completing his doctorate, Jake moved through the ranks of the University Counseling Center to become the Assistant Director. In 1999, Dr. Morris began his career in academics at Freed-Hardeman University where he eventually became a Tenured Associate Professor. In 2009, Jake moved to Nashville to become Director of Lipscomb's Graduate Counseling Program and the Chair of the Psychology Department. Jake has been licensed as a professional counselor in the state of Mississippi since 1998. Jake has presented on the subject of ethics at various agencies and workshops in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Jake is currently active in ACA, TCA, TLPCA, and the NAACC. Jake currently serves as President of the Nashville Area Association of Christian Counselors.

## **Helping the Hurting: Practical Applications for Church Leaders**

Mike Runcie, M.A.R., LMFT

Track: Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

*\*\*\* This program may not meet continuing education requirements for all license types. Conference registrants should check their appropriate licensing rules for clarification.*

### **Program Description**

Mike brings his many years of experience as a church leader and licensed counselor to provide practical applications for church leaders who are called often to help the members of their congregations with a variety of spiritual, emotional and relational needs. Church leaders are typically not trained as professional counselors but are approached by members regularly with opportunities that require more counseling skills and knowledge than a leader has acquired. In this presentation, we will consider basic people helping skills that can strengthen our ability as church leaders to model a Christ-like compassion while providing people with positive and helpful assistance to a better place.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Learn ways to provide a comfortable environment that encourages people to open up with their concerns and challenges.
- How to avoid becoming a part of enabling people by taking on greater responsibility than what is helpful to the person, family and congregation.
- Discover simple listening skills to go beyond the content of the conversation in order to capture the person's heart (emotional experience).
- Learn the value and skill of asking appropriate questions to better understand what and how to provide the best help for their present circumstances.
- Identify ways to draw on a person's strengths while providing a message of hope in the midst of a difficult situation.

### **Speaker Bio**

Mike Runcie is a licensed marital and family therapist and an approved supervisor with 30 years' experience counseling individuals, couples and families and training clinicians in marriage and family therapy. He currently serves as Executive Minister with the Otter Creek church in Brentwood, Tennessee. Mike graduated from Harding Graduate School in 1983 with his masters in counseling and has served in a variety of roles in church leadership, i.e. minister, deacon, worship leader and elder. He and his wife Nadine moved to Nashville in 2007 to be closer to their two grown daughters and three grandchildren and worked with AGAPE as a marriage and family therapist until he began his work with Otter Creek in January 2011.

## **Freedom Prayer: Praying With Clients and Others**

Andy Reese, M.S., M.B.A.

Track: Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

*\*\*\* This program may not meet continuing education requirements for all license types. Conference registrants should check their appropriate licensing rules for clarification.*

### **Program Description**

Many leaders (elders, small group leaders, ministry leads, staff etc.) often feel inadequate to address day-to-day spiritual and emotional issues in both formal ministry settings and impromptu meetings over coffee. Our congregations, too, feel ill-equipped to help someone in need. Where to start? What to say? How to proceed to a helpful conclusion?

Not just a purview of “inner healing,” this simple, proven and popular freedom prayer model has spread to over a thousand churches. It is being employed in a variety of traditional and denominational settings both formally and informally and is even being used in professional counseling as a powerful therapeutic tool.

This 90-minute session will introduce you to the Freedom Prayer model, provide the biblical basis, and walk you through a framework that has been communicated simply and implemented successfully across the country.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Understand the types of issues and demonstrate the partnership between freedom prayer and counseling.
2. Develop a biblical basis for this kind of ministry.
3. Develop a ministry framework suitable for lay and professional first responder use.
4. Walk through several typical sessions in a variety of settings, formal and informal, to demonstrate its use.
5. Point attendees to resources for additional material.

### **Speaker Bio**

Andy Reese has been a lay leader, college pastor, and elder for over 35 years. In those roles he began to encounter issues he felt ill-equipped to meet. He has collaborated with other like-minded leaders to develop the Freedom Prayer ministry model, clocking in over thousands of ministry session hours. He is the President of The Freedom Resource, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting churches and para-church ministries develop capability to minister to their congregations and others more effectively. Known as a humorous and effective communicator, Andy is a popular speaker at conferences and seminars in a variety of settings. He is the author of the book *Freedom Tools*, now in its fifth printing, which describes this approach and carries the endorsement of such leaders as Dr. Neil T. Anderson and Rich Sterns President of World Vision. He is Vice-President of an international engineering consulting firm and has taught at Vanderbilt University. Andy has been married to Susan for 34 years and is the father of four Millennials. He is a member of Otter Creek Church of Christ and resides in rural Franklin, TN.



**One Heart, Two Homes:  
Co-parenting Resources for Therapists to Use with Clients**

Tammy Bennett-Daughtry, MMFT

Track: Child, Clinical and Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

Gain digital and multi-media tools for working with single parent and step parent clients who co-parent children between two homes. Tools include a) The Indicators of Healthy Co-parenting Assessment 2) Top 10 List: What Kids of Divorce Wish They Could Say to Their Parents and 3) Co-parent Meetings and Meeting Agenda. Creative video presentation will include "The Heart of the Child" and "The I Factor."

**Learning Objectives**

1. Explore strategies that will enhance client communication with their former spouse that fosters stable and effective co-parenting roles to reduce child anxiety and create a secure family dynamic.
2. Be able to facilitate the movement of divorced single parents toward parental stability through comparative analysis of the two year post-divorce adjustment timeline.
3. Be able to articulate the six risk factors for children of divorce, as applies to a single parent household, in order to develop behaviors that counter-act the negative outcomes for children.

**Speaker Bio**

Tammy Daughtry, MMFT, is a national advocate for children of divorced families. She is Founder of Co-parenting International and author of "Co-parenting Works! Helping Your Children Thrive After Divorce." Tammy is an alumni of Pacific Christian College (Fullerton, CA) and Trevecca Nazarene University (Nashville, TN). She and her husband are raising a blended family that includes four children, one son-in-law and their first grandson along with two rambunctious and over-energized dogs. Tammy Daughtry, MMFT

Founder, Co-parenting International, Author: "Co-Parenting Works! Helping Your Children Thrive After Divorce." Contact: [www.CoParentingInternational.com](http://www.CoParentingInternational.com)

**Making the Most of Brief Marital Counseling**

Steve Gillespie, M.Div., LMFT, LCPT

Track: Clinical and Couples

CEU Hours 1.5

**Program Description**

This workshop will explore common core elements in a variety of brief models of couples therapy. Once we are able to articulate these essential ingredients, we will focus on ways to maximize effectiveness within the allotted time frame for brief work.

**Learning Objectives**

1. To consider together the ultimate goal in all marital therapy
2. To discover common elements in EFT, IMAGO, Gottman, and Wiles
3. To articulate the essential ingredients in successful brief marital therapy
4. To maximize the effectiveness of brief marital therapy within the allotted time.

**Speaker Bio**

Steve Gillespie is the Director of Training at Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee. He is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and a clinical pastoral therapist (LCPT). Steve is ordained in the United Methodist Church and is appointed from the SC Annual Conference in extension ministry as a pastoral counselor. He is an approved supervisor with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and a Fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC). He received his Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC and conducted non-degree postgraduate work at the University of South Carolina and Converse College. A Ph.D. candidate at Trevecca Nazarene University, Steve is adjunct professor with Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri where he teaches the course, "The Counseling Ministry of the Church." Email and Phone: [steven.gillespie@comcast.net](mailto:steven.gillespie@comcast.net) 615 335-1269

**2:15-3:45 PM**  
**Breakout Session 3**

**Facilitating Groups that Change Lives (Part 2)**

Stephen James, M.A., LPC/MHSP

Track: Clinical

CEU Hours: 3 (2 part class)

See Part 1 description on page 11

**Listening theologically: Training supervisors and clinicians how to integrate faith narratives into the counseling process (Part 2)**

Joy Samuels, D.Min., LPC/MHSP

Track: Clinical and Supervision

CEU Hours: 3 (2 part class)

See Part 1 Description on Page 12

**Ethics and Minors: Skill-building for Therapists (Part 2)**

Jake Morris, Ph.D., LPC/MHSP &

Terry Casey, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

Track: Clinical and Child

CEU Hours: 3 (2 part class)

See Part 1 Description on Page 13

**Goodbye Asperger's; Hello Autism Spectrum Disorder**

R. Christopher Qualls, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

Track: Clinical and Child

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

This presentation will cover the diagnostic criteria changes made in moving from Pervasive Development Disorder to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), with emphasis given to how Asperger's symptoms will be included within the category of ASD. In doing so, we will examine the defining characteristics of children and adolescents diagnosed with Asperger's Disorder in DSM-IV and how these characteristics are incorporated in DSM-V criteria for ASD. Additionally, the presentation will review current research regarding the possible causes of ASD, the prognosis for individuals with mild to moderate levels of ASD, the range of assessment options available to those who evaluate children and adolescents suspected of having ASD, and empirically supported treatment options for treating ASD.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will be able to describe the leading changes involved in the transition from the diagnostic category of Asperger's Disorder to Autism Spectrum Disorder.
2. Participants will be able to discuss key elements associated with ASD including its prevalence, associated features, potential causes, and prognosis.
3. Participants will be able to identify different assessment procedures utilized in the evaluation of children and adolescents suspected of having ASD.
4. Participants will be able to describe the range of options available for treating the symptoms of ASD.

**Speaker Bio**

R. Christopher Qualls, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Emory & Henry College and a Consulting Psychologist for Mount Rogers Community Services Board. He holds Doctorate and Master's degrees in Clinical Psychology from the University of Memphis, a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Abilene Christian University, and a Bachelor's degree from David Lipscomb College. He has held previous positions as Vice-President for Academic Affairs (Emory & Henry) and Clinical Director of Agape (Nashville, TN). He was the recipient of the 2004 Excellence in Teaching Award given by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church and the 2008 Hope Award for Faculty given by the Appalachian Center for Community Service. He is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of child and adolescent psychological disorders

## **Ethical Considerations in Pastoral Care and Counseling**

Chris O'Rear, M.MFT., M.Div., LCPC

Track: Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

### **Program Description**

Ethical Pastoral Care can be legally defined in many ways, but it comes down to a standard of care that is most beneficial for the parishioner. This presentation was designed from with Pastoral Caregivers in mind and is an attempt to raise their awareness of issues involved in quality care. Practical advice and examples are used to illustrate possible difficulties. This presentation will also serve as a good refresher course on core ethical concepts for those in clinical practice.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will understand the connection between ethical considerations and quality care.
2. Participants will review the basics boundaries of good care related to the role of the caregiver and the framework of the care.
3. Participants will understand the difference between legal and contextual rules of confidentiality and the importance of both.
4. Participants will learn when it is appropriate to refer a care receiver/client and how to make and effective referral.

### **Speaker Bio**

Master of Marriage & Family Therapy, Trevecca Nazarene University, 2004

Master of Divinity (Pastoral Care & Counseling), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1993

Chris O'Rear is the Executive Director of the Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee. He is a Diplomate in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapist in TN. He has worked as hospital chaplain, supply preacher and has taught pastoral care classes in various settings. Chris has written for several publications in the area of Bible Study and Pastoral Care.

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**Teaching Couples to Love with The Brain in Mind**

Stan Clark, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist

Track: Clinical and Couples

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

The emphasis of this program is to provide practical approaches and interventions for those who work with couples. Participants will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to change the brain to help couples improve and to promote positive lasting change.

**Learning Objectives**

- 1) Participants will learn to work effectively with the emotionally reactive couple based on neuroscience.
- 2) Participants will learn 3 skills that help couples change their brain toward continual relationship growth.
- 3) Participants will learn the most recent research on neuroscience related to the care and repair of couples relationships.
- 4) Participants will learn five agreements that couples can use to keep their relationship healthy.

**Speaker Bio**

Dr. Stan Clark is a licensed Clinical Psychologist. He earned a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Abilene Christian University and a Doctor of Psychology degree from Pepperdine University. He has worked with individuals, couples and families for more than twenty-seven years. His interests include couples counseling, marriage resiliency and mindfulness techniques for couples. He teaches Marriage and Family Therapy in the graduate counseling program at Lipscomb University. He is a senior member of the Counseling and Psychological Services staff at AGAPE in Nashville, Tennessee where he provides direct services to clients as well as clinical supervision for interns and counselors working toward licensure.

**Daring to Love: The place and purpose of emotion in loving well.**

Chip Dodd, Ph.D., LPC

Track: Pastoral

CEU Hours: 1.5

**Program Description**

The moment you and I risk loving someone, we also have initiated ourselves into inevitable emotional pain. This pain exists between two polarities, the capacity to grieve and the courage to celebrate. Between these two experiences, that many people are trained to stifle, loving deeply is profoundly experienced. Dr. Dodd honors the power of Scripture in speaking to the depths of love.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Love involves emotional experience of attachment and care, vulnerability and courage.
2. Attendees will learn use of feelings as tools to communicate the language of relationship.
3. The attendees will be able to communicate to the positive design of feelings in place of the historical assumption that feelings (except for gladness) are negative.

**Speaker Bio**

David T. "Chip" Dodd II received his Ph.D. in Counseling from the University of North Texas and his M.A. in English from the University of Mississippi. He is the executive director and founder of The Center for Professional Excellence, a multidisciplinary treatment center for professionals with addiction, depression, burnout, anxiety and other behavioral problems. He is also the founder of Sage Hill Institute, which is dedicated to teaching and training others in the Spiritual Root System. Dr. Dodd is the author of *The Voice of the Heart: A Call to Full Living* and *The Perfect Loss: A Different Kind of Happiness*. Contact: karen@cpenashville.com; 615-837-2282.