

LivingPeace at MVPC

LivingPeace® is an MVPC ministry working toward a culture of peace in our church, homes, workplaces, schools and neighborhoods. It's also a way of living in which we are inspired and equipped to use the reconciling power of the Gospel in relationships and in the conflicts of daily life.

MVPC has a trained team of peacemaking coaches. Each has completed training by **Peacemaker**® **Ministries** and serves under the guidance of our church leadership. Our members are available as LivingPeace and conflict coaches. They will help you plan how to respond to a conflict in a biblically faithful way, as well as use biblical principles to guide your everyday relationships with the goal of living at peace.

We seek to help you experience more peace with God, peace with others, and peace within.

Where *LivingPeace* can help

- in your personal life
- in your family
- in your marriage
- in your neighborhood
- in your friendships
- at the office
- at church

How it works

It's biblical. It's practical. It's powerful. Using scripture as a guide, we'll share clear principles to help you take practical steps toward resolving conflicts and restoring relationships. Increased practice with these tools will breathe grace and peace in your relationships and in you personally.

We offer four different services:

Coaching

Get one-on-one guidance from a trained coach at MVPC. Your coach will help you find the best course for resolving your conflict and restoring your relationship through education, Scripture, and prayer.

Mediation

If personal attempts at conflict resolution aren't enough, we can facilitate mediation. This formal process allows coaches to meet with both sides of the dispute to encourage discussion and voluntary resolution. This mediation process is based on biblical principles and follows a set of guidelines by the *Institute for Christian Conciliation (ICC)*.

Arbitration

If arbitration is needed, our church will assist the parties in locating Christian conciliators who are trained in arbitration.

Teaching

By learning *LivingPeace* principles we can begin to live more peacefully in all our relationships and help prevent conflicts in the first place. We offer to share the biblical principles of LivingPeace with church members in small groups, classes and youth programs. Watch for announcements in the Sunday bulletin or email KBadalich@icloud.com for more information.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."
Romans 12:21

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9

LivingPeace®
BIBLICAL. PRACTICAL. POWERFUL.



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"In as much as possible, in that it depends on you, live at peace with all."
Romans 12:18

Getting started

Call Kristen Maloney at 925 963.8870 or Kathryn Badalich at 925 998.2728 and request an initial confidential conversation with *LivingPeace*.

We will explain the process, ask a few clarifying questions and connect you with the next best step for your situation. We look forward to hearing from you!

Not sure if this is for you?

LivingPeace is designed to help anybody of any age. Whether you're in an uncomfortable or problematic situation with a classmate, family member, neighbor, or others, we're here to help you. A single conversation may provide some powerful peacemaking skills and a path toward resolution. We're confidential and informal, so don't wait! Simply call Kristen Maloney at 925 963.8870 or Kathryn Badalich at 925 998.2728.

"Therefore, if you are offering your gifts at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 5:23-24

Testimonies*

"I thought I had lost a close friend forever, but God worked through a coach in my church to help me see how to reach out to her and rebuild our friendship."

"We had reached a serious deadlock in our marriage and we thank God for the mediator who helped us to understand and forgive each other."

"I was frustrated with my supervisor and frequently gossiped about him. It really helped to have someone to talk with and plan how to relate to him in a better way."

"Conflict with our son had gotten so intense that we were yelling at each other. We made an appointment for conflict coaching. The coach gave us the advice we needed to work out our differences and have a more peaceful family."

"My business partnership went through a difficult transition. Because we were all Christians, we were able to meet with a church mediator who helped us to handle things fairly."

"I made one of my neighbors really mad. She glared at me for several days, but then I talked with a coach. He showed me how to approach her and ask for forgiveness. It has been a witness to the whole neighborhood."

**Representative comments from those who have applied biblical peacemaking principles to conflicts in their relationships.*

Frequently asked questions

What does it mean to respond to conflict biblically?

As Christians we are called to respond to conflict in a profoundly different way than the world responds. According to God's Word, conflict provides an opportunity to glorify God, serve others, and grow to be like Christ. The Bible gives us the good news of the grace and peace we can experience through His Son, Jesus. Jesus, in turn, gives us the model, motivation, and means to breathe grace and peace into our conflicted relationships.

How are *LivingPeace* coaches trained?

Our coaches have completed training through **Peacemaker® Ministries**, a national organization. They serve under the guidance of our church leadership.

What about confidentiality?

LivingPeace coaches keep the highest standards of confidentiality for those we help. We maintain confidentiality to encourage open and honest communication with your coach.

How long does it take?

The approach will vary case-by-case. For some, it may simply be one discussion with a coach to gain some perspective and advice. For others, it may require a longer process involving both you and the person with whom you're in conflict.

What can I expect?

Coaches can meet with you in person or speak on the phone. It may take a single conversation or a series of work-sessions, but you'll always manage your own involvement. Whatever the path may be, we welcome the opportunity to serve you!

What if it doesn't work?

God defines "success" in terms of our faithful obedience to His Word. Regardless of apparent outcomes, you can experience peace knowing you glorified God by allowing His Holy Spirit to develop you as a peacemaker. "Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." James 3:18

Want to learn more?

For more about peacemaking, visit mvpctoday.org/livingpeace. You can also explore our Resource Center on campus. We have many materials from Peacemaker Ministries including:

- *Peacemaking Principles*, pamphlet
- *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, by Ken Sande
- *Resolving Everyday Conflict*, by Ken Sande
- *Peacemaking for Families*, by Ken Sande
- *The Young Peacemaker*, by Sande and Johnson

"The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever." Isaiah 32:17