

**It's All About Love Festival 2023
Preparing Leaders for Evangelism
The Rev. Heather Barta**

**Relational (“Family”) Systems Theory: The Congregation as a System
Handout 1**

Draw a "picture" of your church system.

- Include ministry groups like vestry, altar guild, choir, and staff.
- Be sure to include yourself in the picture.
- Show how the ministry groups relate to each other:
 - o What are the connections? *
 - o Are they in close communication or distant?
 - o Are they conflicted?
 - o Do their ministries overlap and how?
 - o Who is their liaison? Contact person? Communicator?
- Does the former clergy person appear in the picture? Where?
- What groups might be unique to your particular church system?
- Have you included the church staff and its connections to groups?
- Are there groups on the outside of the church system that influence the function of your congregation?
- What is your relationship to these groups?

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Heather’s additional questions:

- Examine the relational lines (*). Who connects well? Who is in conflict? How is it resolved? Where is love expressed?
- Where could clear and direct communication improve relationships?
- Try to see the picture from a distance – naming the roles and not the individual people that you know. Compare this to the historical relationships of those roles.