

Immanuel Approach Certification

(K.D.Lehman MD, New 8/23/24)

An increasing number of ministries, churches, individuals, and organizations are providing Immanuel Approach training.¹ Which is wonderful! I am deeply grateful to all of you who are spending so much time and energy teaching people to use these principles and tools to encounter the tangible, living, interactive, loving, personal, friendship presence of Jesus.

As an increasing number of trainers are offering various form of Immanuel Approach certification,² I would like to make a request that will hopefully prevent confusion and misunderstanding. My request/proposal is that any who are providing certification would include details regarding the source of the training and the extent of the training. For example, “Center for Transformation Institute Immanuel Approach Certification, Basic Training, Facilitator,” or “Face to Face Immanuel Approach Certification, Intermediate Level, Facilitator,” or “Immanuel: A Practicum Immanuel Approach Certification, Advanced Level 2, Trainer.”

And if the large print at the center of your diploma/degree/certificate reads just, “Certified Immanuel Approach Facilitator,” or “Certified Immanuel Approach Trainer,” then please include additional details at the bottom of the document along the lines of, “This diploma certifies that John Smith has completed the basic training program provided by Karl D. Lehman MD, and that John Smith has demonstrated mastery of the theoretical content presented, that he has demonstrated at least basic-level proficiency in facilitating Immanuel Approach sessions, and that he has at least twenty-five hours of experience in facilitating sessions.”³

I am also thinking it would be ideal if graduates included the source when they refer to themselves as certified practitioners. For example, “I’m a certified intermediate Immanuel Approach facilitator with Face to Face Ministries,” or “I’m certified as a basic Immanuel

¹ For example, Immanuel: A Practicum (with Patti Velotta and associates), Face to Face Ministries (with Cathy Little, Melinda Wilson, and associates), Life Model (with Dr. Jim Wilder and associates), THRIVE (with Chris & Jen Coursey and associates), InterVarsity, Center for Transformation Institute (with Monica Mouer and associates), Alive and Well (with Margaret Webb and associates), Deeper Walk (with Dr. Marcus Warner and associated), Healing Center International (with Betsy Stalcup and associates), and Neuroscience Informed Christian Counseling (with Josh Spurlock and associates), along with MANY healing/soul care ministries associated with individual churches.

² Most of us who have been offering Immanuel Approach training have been providing *certificates of completion* to those who go through our training seminars/programs, and these certificates of completion have large-print text along the lines of, “This certificate acknowledges that John Smith has completed the Immanuel Approach Basic Training Seminar provided by Karl D. Lehman MD,” with small-print text clarifying that the certificate only certifies completion of the training seminar, but that the participant has *not* been evaluated and certified to have mastered the principles, to have demonstrated skill in facilitating actual sessions, or to have a specified minimal amount of experience with facilitating sessions. However, there are now a small-but-growing number of training programs that *are* taking on the challenging task of evaluating and certifying mastery of principles, demonstrated skill, and a specified amount of experience. The request/proposal I am presenting here pertains to training programs in this latter category.

³ Unfortunately, I don’t actually have a certification process for which I verify mastery of theoretical content, ability to successfully facilitate actual sessions, and a specified minimum amount of experience. It was just easiest to use myself for this example (for a variety of reasons).

Approach facilitator with the Center for Transformation Institute,” or “I’m a certified Advanced Level 2 Trainer with Immanuel: A Practicum.”

The key thing I’m trying to avoid is trainers offering unspecified certification along the lines of, “Certified Immanuel Approach facilitator,” or “Immanuel Approach Certification” with no additional details regarding the source of the training. My concern is that some might assume that the source of this kind of unspecified certification must be closely supervised by Dr. Wilder and/or myself, that the source of this certification must be *the only* training program that Dr. Wilder and I have actually authorized to provide IA training and certification, and that this training program must thereby be the only truly legitimate program.

And again, thank you! thank you! thank you! to all of you who are spending so much time and energy teaching people to use Immanuel Approach principles and tools to encounter the tangible, living, interactive, loving, personal, friendship presence of Jesus.