

# The Personal and Professional in Times of Ambiguity and Change



Pauline Boss, PhD



Ted Bowman, MDiv

## Virtual Conference with Pauline Boss, PhD and Ted Bowman, MDiv Friday, October 1, 2021

**Pauline Boss, PhD**, is a family therapist and educator widely recognized for groundbreaking work on what's now known as the theory of ambiguous loss. For 40 years, she has studied the family stress of loss from a social psychological view. She shares thoughts about loss and grief from her new book, *The Myth of Closure: Ambiguous Loss in a Time of Pandemic and Change*. More about Dr. Boss and the University of Minnesota ambiguous loss course, for CEU's, is at <https://www.ambiguousloss.com/>.

**Ted Bowman, MDiv**, is an educator, author and consultant who specializes in change and transition, whether it occurs in families, an organization, or the community. His emphasis is on aiding people in utilizing their strengths and the resources of others in facing change and transition. His new book, *Ambiguous Parables: A Life of Poems and Prose*, will be published fall 2021. Please visit his website: <https://bowmanted.com/>.

### About the Program

Tis a truism that the personal narratives of grief and bereavement counselors will be triggered when doing their work with others. Stories evoke stories. Shared accounts of loss can overlap with or evoke the personal loss experiences of the grief volunteer or professional. At those moments, the quality of grief care can be compromised or enriched. In this workshop, registrants will be presented with perspectives and tools for addressing the ambiguities of loss and of grief care, while also grieving.



Minnesota Coalition for  
Death Education and Support

### REGISTER:

**MCDES Members:** <https://mcdesspringconference.eventsmart.com/events/mcdes-2021-fall-conference-member/>

**NON-MCDES Members:** <https://mcdesspringconference.eventsmart.com/events/mcdes-2021-fall-conference-non-member/>

**Information:** [www.mcdes.org](http://www.mcdes.org)

**Questions:** [info@mcdes.org](mailto:info@mcdes.org)

# The Personal and Professional in Times of Ambiguity and Change

## Objectives

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- Understand why closure is neither necessary or possible after a loved one is lost and what helps instead.
- Increase our personal and professional tolerance for ambiguity in order to help people live with loss.
- Define and describe ways of using bibliotherapeutic tools for grief and bereavement care.
- Name steps one can take to avoid countertransference when personal matters surface.

## Agenda/Schedule

8:30 am	Welcome, Introductions
9:00	Pauline Boss: Closure: illusion or misnomer? What helps instead? What's normal grief? Learning more from personal writings: Freud, Kubler-Ross, and Frankl.
10:00	Break
10:15	What helps instead? Increasing personal and professional tolerance for ambiguity and paradox, thinking both/and, guidelines, not stages.
11:30	Lunch Break
12n	Introduction of Ted Bowman and Dialogue with Pauline Boss and Ted Bowman
12:30 pm	Ted Bowman: Re-Authoring Lives After Change and Ambiguity.
2:00	Break
2:15	When the Professional Becomes Personal: What Then?
3:00	Q and A with Pauline and Ted
3:25	Summary, Closing Remarks
3:30	Adjourn

## Conference Fees

Current MCDES Members: \$100  
Non Members: \$125

## Intended Audience

This program is intended for nurses, social workers, psychologists, clergy, chaplains, counselors, hospice staff, physicians, nursing home, hospital and home care employees, funeral home and emergency personnel, educators, physical and occupational therapists, art therapists, marriage and family therapists, students and volunteers.

## CE Information

This program is designed to meet the Minnesota Board of Nursing CE requirements for 6 contact hours for RNs and LPNs. It has been approved for 6 credits from the MN Boards of Social Work and Psychology. Application has been made for 6 credits from the MN licensing boards for Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Funeral Home Personnel. Call Florence Wright, MCDES Chair, 651-241-4407, for more information.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available. For more information or to apply, go to: [www.mcdes.org/scholarships](http://www.mcdes.org/scholarships).

## Registration Deadline/ Cancellation Policy

Registration deadline is September 30. Cancellations received on or after September 30 will be assessed a \$25 processing fee.



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The Minnesota Coalition for Death Education and Support (MCDES) is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 interdisciplinary organization dedicated to providing education, networking opportunities and support to professionals and volunteers who are involved in the care of dying and grieving persons.