

Tending the Fire

Wise, resilient leadership for a changing world

Your church needs your leadership more than ever in this pandemic.

It also demands more of you than ever. How can you survive?

Leading a church is no longer a debate about *whether* to engage 21st century change. That change is here, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only raised the stakes. Leaders face intense pressure for answers and plans and solutions, which are then sabotaged from all sides. How can you move forward with hope and resilience?

Tending the Fire will teach you how to manage yourself and your church so that you can:

- Be a healthy, non-anxious leader
- Manage difficult emotional relationships
- Avoid overwork and “underwork”
- Recognize and handle sabotage
- Discover the “next right steps” for your churches and yourself.

Tending the Fire

is a series of three 3-day sessions offered for UCC, Episcopal & ELCA clergy across New England.

Opening Session:

November 10-12, 2020

Deepening Session:

January 12-14, 2021

Sending Session:

March 9-11, 2021

“Tending the Fire’s spirit-filled retreats are personally and professionally transformative: coaching for effective leadership and invitation to self-discovery all rolled into one. Don’t miss this!”

- Rev. Alison Patton
Saugatuck Congr. Church, Westport CT

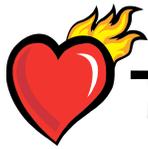
“Have you ever found yourself wondering ‘What happened? What went wrong? What’s really going on?’ then Tending the Fire will give you new tools for understanding yourself and your church.”

- Rev. Keith Beasley-Topliffe,
Susquehanna Conference, UMC

“I can see more clearly what I need to do and be, and I feel better equipped to live in the messy life of the church.”

- Rev. Katrina Wuensch, South Acton UCC, MA

Tending the Fire gives you tools to survive - even thrive - the sabotage all around you.



Tending the Fire

Director / Retreat Leader

Rev. Barbara Lemmel is an ordained elder in the New England Conference of the UMC. She has served congregations in Vermont and upstate New York, facilitated conference re-structuring, and offers programming and spiritual guidance to churches and pastors. Barbara studied Family Systems Theory with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Chicago and the Center for Pastoral Effectiveness in New Orleans. In 2003, she and Rev. Alan Delamater established *Tending the Fire*; Barbara continues to offer *Tending the Fire* for clergy, laity and judicatory leadership in multiple denominations. She also offers leadership coaching and coordinates the Parish Consultants of the New England Conference UMC. For more information, visit www.tending-the-fire.com or email barblemmel@mac.com.

Tending the Fire will be taught online in a combination of group and individual meetings over three sessions.

Participation in all 3 sessions is required.

“The concepts, perspective and self-knowledge gained from Tending the Fire are as valuable as any I’ve come across in my 25 years of active pastoral ministry. I wish I had experienced Tending the Fire years earlier.”

- Rev. Henry Frueh, Upper New York Conference UMC

Tending the Fire Registration

Cost for all three sessions is \$600 (\$800 for non-affiliated clergy). Scholarship assistance may be available. Questions? Contact Cindy Bolton, boltonc@sneucc.org.

Register online:

<https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/TendingtheFireSeriesThree20202021>

Registration Deadline:

October 27, 2020

“How can I become the leader my church needs?”

No one has to tell you that this is a hard time to lead the church: congregations are worried; money is tight; leaders are stretched thin. The old ways don’t work, and the best new practices aren’t clear.

Yet even in these times of deep change, when you lead by staying true to core principles and also stay flexible in your approach, it makes all the difference.

Tending the Fire draws on the wisdom of family systems theory as developed by Murray Bowen and Edwin Friedman, combined with the adaptive leadership insights of Ron Heifetz and Tod Bolsinger and the powerful research of Brené Brown.

Clergy who attend Tending the Fire become better leaders: less worried, more engaged, renewed in their call and ministry.

“Tending the Fire demystified some of the hilariously complicated webs of ministry and inspired me to live fully and courageously into God’s calling.”

- Rev. Kelly Jane Forbush
First Congregational Church, E. Hartford CT

This program is part of the “Together We Thrive: Nurturing Pastoral Leadership” initiative, a collaboration of the TA1 Conferences of the United Church of Christ, The New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. This initiative is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.