



Center for Transformational Leadership

You're invited!

A Season of Jubilee

A New Affinity Group for
Nearly and Newly Retired Clergy of the
Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ

This program is underwritten by a generous grant from
the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards-UCC



Retirement can be a time of excitement and anticipation. It can also be a time of anxiety and isolation. The Center for Transformational Leadership is launching a new affinity group to support our newly (and nearly!) retired clergy during this time of transition. We invite you to become a member of this new cohort as we explore the many facets of a healthy and productive retirement while building a new network of support and engagement.

We will begin this fall with a discussion with Bruce Epperly about his book, *The Jubilee Years: Embracing Clergy Retirement*. Through the following topics we will gather and explore meaningful service in retirement, ways to navigate spiritual and emotional changes, new ways to kindle and sustain joy, financial stability, and spiritual and physical health and well-being.

Program Details

The *Season of Jubilee Affinity Group* will be a cohort of up to 15 members and will meet a total of 6 times over the course of 12 months. We will launch as a hybrid model of virtual and in-person gatherings. The September 30, 2021 event with Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly will be virtual. We plan to hold at least 2 subsequent events in-person if possible.

Each gathering will be held on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9 AM – 2 PM and include a time for exploring content, conversation in small groups and an opportunity for spiritual direction by arrangement and funded by the Pension Boards.

Cost per attendee: \$150.00
Registration DEADLINE: September 20, 2021

Program*

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Vision and Purpose

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly based on his book, *The Jubilee Years*. Bruce will share overview of his research with 100 retired ministers, introduce the concept of retirement as Jubilee and offer insights and guidance on creating a vision for a healthy/productive retirement.

Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly has served as pastor and university chaplain, university and seminary professor and administrator, and is a prolific author and lectionary commentor. With over forty years joining pulpit and classroom, Bruce recently retired after serving eight years as Senior Pastor of South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Centerville, MA and has relocated to the Washington DC suburbs to be closer to his family. He is the author of over 60 books.

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Spiritual and Physical Health and Well-being

Presenters: Ms. Andree Grafstein, Ms. Lisa Hudkins, Spiritual Directors, and Ms. Deborah Ringen

An essential aspect of a healthy, happy, productive retirement includes attention to one's wellbeing. Participants will explore ways to maintain vitality during retirement and will discover sound strategies to care for body, mind, and spirit.

Ms. Deborah Ringen MSN RN-BC Faith Community Nurse serves [as Minister of Health and Wellness in the Southern New England Conference](#), United Church of Christ. As a faith community nurse for over 18 years, Debbie's ministry is grounded in best practices for wellness and healthy living for all ages and stages.

Ms. Grafstein and Ms. Hudkins are Spiritual Directors from [The Spiritual Life Center](#) of West Hartford, CT. The Spiritual Life Center is "A community that envisions a world where people are spiritually awake and engaged. We provide support for people from any background who seek a deeper spiritual life..."

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Joyful Service, Becoming a Good Ancestor

Presenter: Rev. Donna Manocchio, retired clergy

Group will explore meaningful service in retirement that respects good boundaries and ignites new ideas and insights of how to mentor, serve, and create new avenues of meaningful engagement using knowledge and experience gained in years of ministry in one's community and beyond.

Donna K. Manocchio is a retired UCC clergy who served churches in Rocky Hill and Hartford, CT. Since her retirement, she has continued in ministry as a spiritual director, retreat leader and bridge minister. Donna is a 20+ year volunteer, former chair, and

current member of the friends group of Hands on Hartford, a Hartford based nonprofit organization that provides housing, health and food supports to community neighbors.

Thursday, April 7, 2021

Good Grief and Good Work- Building Resiliency

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Tracy Mehr-Muska

Group will continue to explore ways of making positive adjustments in lifestyle, purpose planning, and explore ways to navigate spiritual and emotional changes as retirement progresses, etc.

Reverend Tracy Mehr-Muska, DMin, is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She is a board-certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains and has served as an interfaith chaplain in a psychiatric hospital, men's prison, trauma hospital, university, and hospice. She currently serves as the Minister for Mid and Later Life at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, Connecticut, and as an adjunct instructor at Hartford Seminary.

June

Kindling New Joy

Presenter: To Be Announced

The Cohort will explore new ways to kindle and sustain joy in retirement especially through underdeveloped passions, gifts, and interests. Group will enjoy an artistic experience of their choosing, good conversation and an ending ritual.

September

Financial Wellness

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee and colleagues

Group will explore the components of financial security and wellness in retirement, resources and programs available through the Pension Boards, and the Annuitant Visitor Program as both a service available and an opportunity to serve. Participation in Pension Boards benefits not a prerequisite!

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee served local congregations of the UCC for 20 years, was the Director of Institutional Advancement at Hartford Seminary, and is currently the Director of Church Relations and Operations at the Pension Boards in New York City.

PLEASE REGISTER HERE

*Program as of September 15, 2021. Watch for updates on our SNEUCC Events page.

Questions? Please email the Center for Transformational Leadership at Transform@SNEUCC.org.