

# Tending the Fire

*Wise, resilient leadership for a changing world*

## **Human systems are complicated, and churches are no exception.**

At their best, they draw out excellence in their people. At their worst, they become stuck -- undermining and sabotaging even the most well-designed plans for change. *Tending the Fire* helps clergy “think systems” in their congregations and their personal lives, so they can lead change that lasts. They can:

- Understand anxiety’s effects on churches and individuals
- Be a healthy, non-anxious leader
- Manage complicated emotional relationships
- Avoid overwork and “underwork”
- Recognize and handle sabotage
- Discover the “next right steps” for their churches and themselves.

*“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

*“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

**Tending the Fire is a course of three 3-day sessions.**

**A second series is being offered in 2019-2020 for UCC, Episcopal & ELCA clergy in New England.**

### **Opening Intensive:**

Irons Homestead, Gloucester RI

### **Deepening Session:**

Edwards House, Framingham MA

### **Sending Session:**

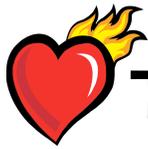
Silver Lake Conf. Center, Sharon CT

### **Series Two**

November 5-7, 2019

January 14-16, 2020

March 10-12, 2020



# 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. She has led *Tending the Fire* retreats for clergy, laity and judicatory leadership since 2003. Barbara also offers one-on-one leadership coaching and coordinates the Parish Consultants of the New England Conference UMC.

For more information, visit [www.tending-the-fire.com](http://www.tending-the-fire.com) or email [barblemmel@mac.com](mailto:barblemmel@mac.com).

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**Sessions begin at 1:00 on the first day,  
and end by 4:00 on the third day.**

**Participation at all sessions is required.**

**Participants earn 9 CEUs.**

## **“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 the powerful research of Brené Brown.

**Tending the Fire gives you tools  
to manage the ongoing chaos  
of life and leadership.**

*“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 Congregational Church, Westport CT

## **Tending the Fire Registration**

Cost for all three sessions is \$600 (\$800 for non-affiliated clergy) & includes meals and materials. Lodging is available at each location for an additional fee; see online registration for details. Scholarship assistance may be available. Questions? Contact Cindy Bolton, [boltonc@macucc.org](mailto:boltonc@macucc.org) or 508-875-5233.

**Register online:**

<https://www.macucc.org/tendingthefire>

**Registration Deadline:**

October 22, 2019 for Series Two

*“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

This program is part of the “Together We Thrive: Nurturing Pastoral Leadership” initiative, a collaboration of the TAI 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.