



# 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 at Casowasco Retreat Center 2017-2018:**

### **Opening Intensive:**

October 3-5, 2017

### **Deepening Retreat:**

November 14-16, 2017

### **Sending Retreat:**

January 16-18, 2018

*“Tending the Fire is one of the most important trainings I have participated in since seminary”*

- Rev. Robert Johansen, Baldwinville, MA

*“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 manage the ongoing chaos of life and leadership.**



# 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).

---

### Retreat schedule

5:30 pm Wednesday to 4:00 pm Friday  
(starts with dinner on Wednesday)

**Participation at all retreats is required.**

### **“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.

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

*“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

## Registration Form

### Deadline to register: Sept 20, 2017

Cost for all three retreats is \$1200, which includes lodging, meals, and materials.

This event is eligible for Board of Ordained Ministry MEF grants.

Participants earn 9 CEU's.

Register online: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=eroqakuab&oeidk=a07ee4f71l73001ff2f>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_