



# 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 2017-2018**

### **Opening Intensive:**

November 6-8, 2018  
Edwards House, Framingham MA

### **Deepening Retreat:**

January 8-10, 2019  
Edwards House, Framingham MA

### **Sending Retreat:**

March 12-14, 2019  
Silver Lake Conference Center, Sharon CT

*“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

*“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).

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

**Participation at all retreats 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.

**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

## **Tending the Fire 2018-19 Registration**

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

### **Register online:**

[https://macucc-reg.brtapp.com/  
TendingtheFire2018-2019](https://macucc-reg.brtapp.com/TendingtheFire2018-2019)

**Registration Deadline: October 24, 2018**

*“*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

*Tending the Fire* is supported by your contributions to the wider church and is endorsed by the MACUCC Council for Clergy Development.