



# Tending the Fire

*Wise, resilient leadership for a changing world*

**“There’s no going back to who we were. We have to figure out how to move forward.”**

As your church engages the opportunities and the losses engendered by the Covid pandemic, it needs your leadership more than ever. But it’s not always clear what the future holds, and how to navigate the challenges ahead of you.

**How can you discern the way forward and lead your congregation 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 on Zoom:**

**Opening Session:**

February 11-13, 2025

**Deepening Session:**

March 25-27, 2025

**Sending Session:**

May 6-8, 2025

*“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 - in the challenges and 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](http://www.tending-the-fire.com) or email [barblemmel@mac.com](mailto:barblemmel@mac.com).

Each Tending the Fire session consists of Zoom seminars on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday & Thursday morning.

**Participation in all 3 sessions 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 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.**

*“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

**Deadline to register: January 28, 2025**

Cost for all three sessions is \$800. Make checks payable to “Tending the Fire” and mail to: Barbara Lemmel, 27 Avon Hill St., Cambridge MA 02140.

Or register online: [www.tending-the-fire.com/register](http://www.tending-the-fire.com/register)

Participants earn 9 CEU's. For UMC pastors, *Tending the Fire* is eligible for MEF tuition assistance.

For more information, contact Barbara Lemmel at [barblemmel@mac.com](mailto:barblemmel@mac.com) or 802.881.3267.

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

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

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

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

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

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