

Sound familiar?

You want to lead your church into a faithful future, but the path forward is fraught with anxiety and resistance;

You want to be proactive rather than reactive to the demands of pastoral ministry;

You want to thrive rather than just survive in ministry.

All organizations, including the church, operate as systems of interpersonal relationships.

At their best, these systems draw out excellence in their people.

At their worst, these systems become stuck, undermining and sabotaging even the most well-designed plans for change.

Understanding and leveraging these systemic dynamics can be the key to a successful ministry.

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

“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. If you can lead by staying true to core principles and yet stay flexible in your approach, it makes all the difference.

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 restructuring, 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. For more information, visit www.tending-the-fire.com or email barblemmel@mac.com.

“Tending the Fire is a terrific workshop that allows me to better understand the dynamics at play in my church. Anyone serving in the parish will benefit from this course.”

Janet Dorman, Foreside Community Church,
Falmouth ME



Tending the Fire

Wise, resilient
leadership for
changing times.

Opening Intensive
February 3-5, 2015

Deepening Retreat
April 14-16, 2015

Sending Retreat
May 26-28, 2015

**Essex Center United
Methodist Church
Essex Center, Vermont**

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 helps clergy to “**think systems**” in their congregations and in their personal lives. They can:

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

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

“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-Topcliffe, Liverpool UMC, Pennsylvania

Tending the Fire

Opening Intensive

February 10 - 12

An introduction to and exploration of systems theory as it applies to congregations and families, with a focus on one’s personal rhythm of ministry.

Deepening Retreat

April 14 - 16

A look at the effects of chronic anxiety on institutions, how to maintain one’s self in an anxious system, and tools for healthy leadership. Exploring specific case studies from participants’ congregational settings.

Sending Retreat

May 26 - 28

Continued reflection on systems and anxiety, with emphasis on managing sabotage and creating collegial support; focus on call and vision for ministry; case studies.

“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 Registration

Send your name, church, address, email and phone number to:

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www.tending-the-fire.com

Registration Deadline:
January 20, 2015

Cost: \$750

The cost includes tuition, facility, materials, and meals (dinner Tuesday, lunch Wednesday and Thursday.)

Retreat schedule:

1:00 - 8:00 on Tuesday,
9:00 - 6:00 on Wednesday,
9:00 - 3:00 on Thursday.

9 CEU’s awarded at completion.

Participation at all retreats is required.

Financial assistance is available for UMC elders and full-time local pastors through MEF grants, and for part-time local pastors through Preachers Aid. For more information: barblemmel@mac.com.