



## Maine Conference United Church of Christ Clergy Communities of Practice

*Clergy Communities of Practice groups offer a hopeful vision for the future of the church.  
Quality pastoral leadership fosters healthy churches.*

The Maine Conference is committed to encouraging and supporting excellence in pastoral leadership for the churches in our Conference. At the heart of supporting the work of our clergy are peer groups that provide a regular forum for pastors to meet with other pastors whose calling is similar to their own. In this setting, best practices and resources can be shared, common issues and problems explored, and the often-isolating nature of a ministerial calling remedied.

By offering opportunities for collegial support and ongoing development in the practices of pastoral ministry, we strive to increase ministers' sense of job satisfaction while magnifying their success in their ministerial setting. While each pastoral group is unique in some ways, they also have some common intentions:

- Share information, insight, and advice around case studies or situations in your own setting.
- Ponder common issues, explore ideas, and act as sounding boards to colleagues.
- Create environments for intentional learning where each perspective can be heard.
- Develop a common body of knowledge, practices, and approaches.
- Develop personal relationships with colleagues.
- Provide spiritual discernment and prayerful support to one another.

Each clergy group is facilitated by a seasoned clergyperson who receives specialized training and financial support in their role and is tasked with: keeping the group's calendar, lifting up the mutually created covenant, providing hospitality, and providing worship for the group, as well as facilitating the conversations. The participation fee for joining a group is \$125 each of the two program seasons (fall & spring).

To let us know you are interested, please complete the information below and snail-mail this to:

Rev. Darren L. Morgan, Associate Conference Minister  
Maine Conference, UCC, 337 State Street, Suite 3, Augusta, ME 04330-6122

We look forward to connecting you with a clergy group!

I would like to participate in the Maine Conference Clergy Communities of Practice Group:

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Local church or ministry setting in which you serve: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any factors that you would like us to take into account:

I wish to travel 30 miles or less to a group.

Distance is not a mitigating factor to join a group.

I prefer to participate in a specialized group or a group held: \_\_\_\_\_

Other? (Please explain): \_\_\_\_\_