



## SPECIAL OFFER!

### PERSONALIZED SPECIAL OFFERING BULLETIN

Sign up now for your **Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment Campaign Special Offering**. We will create a customized bulletin insert for your church highlighting how the Pastoral Excellence Program has enriched your ministry in your local church.

### SAMPLE BULLETIN

#### Front

##### Sustaining Pastoral Excellence in the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ



*"When I am worn out, or discouraged, or stuck in a rut, it's a little scary how much impact that has on the church. And so if there is a group that helps me experience renewal, that has a huge impact on the church too."*

*The Rev. Deborah Clark  
Pastor, Edwards Church, Framingham*

There are many ways in which all of us can choose to spend our money, or make a charitable gift. The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment Campaign will support our church, and all MACUCC churches, both now and in the future. As Debbie Clark observed, "One of the things that I have learned is that when I am worn out, or discouraged, or stuck in a rut, it's a little scary how much impact that has on the church. And so if there is a group that helps me experience renewal, that has a huge impact on the church too."

**The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment Campaign seeks to raise \$3.5 million over five years, to ensure the continuation of the Pastoral Excellence Program.** Your church's pastors and your church's leadership all benefit from this important program. Your committed support will help it continue well into the next decade, and beyond. **Today's offering will benefit this campaign.** Please give generously, and know that you are helping to strengthen the ministry offered by the United Church of Christ and its pastors, throughout Massachusetts!

##### Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment Campaign

*Creating Excellent Churches and  
Excellent Pastors for the 21st Century*

##### THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 Badger Road • Framingham, MA 01702  
508-875-5233  
[www.macucc.org/excellence](http://www.macucc.org/excellence)



#### Back

##### Pastoral Excellence Program: Forming New Leaders for the Church

##### NEW CLERGY GROUPS

for clergy in their first three years of ministry, meet monthly in small groups of three to five, assisted by a more experienced pastor who is trained to serve as facilitator and mentor.



Here, new pastors find the support and guidance they need to navigate the transition from seminary into pastoral ministry. They will learn best practices for meeting the challenges of the first years of ministry and developing habits that will enable them to thrive for a lifetime of effective service.

**CLERGY COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE** offer more experienced pastors opportunities to hone their practices of ministry and develop meaningful collegial friendships.

Counteracting the risks of isolation and burnout, the Clergy Communities of Practice are designed to help clergy uncover the challenges of ministry and the possibilities of new growth.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LEARNING EVENTS:** Conference-wide learning events widen the circle of conversation beyond the clergy groups. Colloquies also offer opportunities for focused learning and discussion on particular topics. An annual series for graduating seminarians helps to equip them for the search and call process.

##### PROFILE:

The Rev. Deborah Clark  
Edwards Church  
Framingham, MA

Rev. Debbie Clark, who has served as Pastor of Edwards Church, in Framingham for fifteen years, said, "It's always hard to get in the car and set aside time for another meeting, because there are other things that need to be done. But **participating in a Clergy Community of Practice, which is a cornerstone of the MACUCC's Pastoral Excellence Program, has been an investment in building those relationships that are going to be there for me when I need them, and ultimately, for my church.**"

Debbie now facilitates a Community of Practice group, recalls, "A member of our church council came up to me and said, 'this is one of the best things we can be supporting.' The fact that she had grown up in this church and was excited about the program – that she knew that this was critical to the well-being of the church – was wonderful to see."



#### To Order your Special Offering Inserts and Envelopes:

Contact: Andrea Bellarosa  
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(508) 875-5233 ext. 230

You will need the following:

1. Picture of your pastor (electronic)
2. Profile of your pastor
3. Testimony

For more information, please contact Andy Gustafson—[gustafsona@macucc.org](mailto:gustafsona@macucc.org) / (508) 875-5233 ext. 231