



The Overdose and Drug Use Ministries of the United Church of Christ brings together pastors, lay leaders, theologians, people who use drugs, service providers, activists, and other collaborators in order to advocate for and increase the engagement of local churches in ministries with people who use drugs, people who have been affected by drug use, and people who may be at risk for or have experienced incidents of overdose.

Centering the voices of people with lived experience, including women and people of color, the project focuses its work on building the capacity of local churches and providing resources that equip local churches to engage in overdose and drug use ministries in their community, with particular attention to the intersections of stigma, trauma, drug use, faith, and spirituality.

We support congregations in developing life-saving, life-giving overdose and drug use ministries, and we can help you:

- Develop an overdose response plan for your congregation and community
- Obtain overdose prevention resources and supplies, including naloxone (medication to reverse an opioid overdose).
- Provide overdose prevention, recognition, and response trainings for church leadership, staff, and members
- Expand explicit hospitality and care for people at risk of overdose, their families and loved ones
- Provide education on substance use/misuse/disorder, harm reduction, drug related stigma, access to treatment (including medication for opioid use disorder), and intersectional justice issues that impact people at risk of overdose.
- Access liturgical resources, including prayers, sermons, songs, ritual, and more that uplift issues connected to overdose, drug use, and pathways to healing.
- Explore opportunities for partnering with local health departments, harm reduction programs, treatment providers, and drug user organizing collectives to build communities of care for people who use drugs and their loved ones.
- And more!

Contact Overdose and Drug Use Ministry Coordinator, Erica Poellot at [poellote@ucc.org](mailto:poellote@ucc.org) for more info.