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"...that they may be encouraged
in heart and united in love..."
Colossians 2.2 (NIV)

SEPTEMBER PRESIDENT'S LETTER

EMBRACE THE QUESTIONS

The mission statement for the Christian Education Network is, "supporting lifelong faith in the home and congregation." A large part of this is supporting the leaders who are equipping homes and congregations and people in lifelong faith. We are focusing a lot of our mission on training opportunities for faith formation leaders. Whatever your ministry, we are here for YOU – part time, full time, volunteer, paid staff, rostered individual, paraprofessional – we want to provide the training that you need to be effective and last for the long haul.

We are planning webinars and other opportunities throughout 2023 to live out this mission. We all need to be in relationship with each other as we face new challenges and live out our calls. Whenever I've attended conferences or workshops, I've experienced a benefit beyond the actual content or program at the conference. This benefit is the many relationships that are formed during the conference or event. I am still connected to people from conferences I've attended years ago, because we share common challenges.

I never thought of myself as a Christian educator until someone at a workshop used that term when introducing me. At that time, I was a volunteer youth leader in my congregation. Being called a Christian educator broadened my view of the ministry. I wasn't just leading a youth group two Sundays a month; I was building the faith of the youth and their friends and families. Training events and workshops through my 30 years in ministry have sustained me during some difficult times. And these events have always placed me in relationships with others who were facing the same challenges.

We need relationships more than ever in our rapidly changing world. Our ministries are changing rapidly with new demands and responsibilities. We can help each other see the broad view and the long-term effect of what we do. We can embrace the questions together as we adapt to new situations and contexts. I am grateful to my friends in the CE Network, the Word and Service Roster of the ELCA (a shout out here to deacons!), and educator friends and colleagues who help me ask good questions.

Let's continue asking questions and discovering together!

Diane McGeoch, President
Christian Education Network of the ELCA