



OCTOBER 2022  
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DISCERNMENT AND MOVEMENT

We are continually on the move, as people of faith, and as faith formation leaders. We move from one season of the church year to the next, from one program or event to another, from one understanding of a curriculum or practice to a deeper understanding. All these movements include many decisions about what has happened in the past, what is going on in the present, and planning for the future. These movements can happen very rapidly with little time for reflection.

I recognize that I am a slow decision maker. I want to seek input from people I trust, weigh the pros and the cons, do research into whatever area I am deciding on, pray about it, think about it, pray some more and on and on. A year ago, I was in the midst of making a life changing decision – whether to retire or not. I loved my call as a deacon, enjoyed the people I worked with, was making a difference in the community where I served. Yet there was something deep inside of me that was causing me to think about retirement.

I took some time to reflect and sought out some trusted advisors – my pastor, my spiritual director, some deacon colleagues, some family members, and friends. I paid attention to the voice inside of me carefully and prayerfully, and left my call at the end of January. Retirement has been a new adventure. I am still involved in faith formation and connected to ministries and programs. Serving as the President of the Christian Education Network is one way I am connected; there are many others. I was able to make this decision and enter this new part of life because of discernment.

Discernment is deeply rooted in our faith and in our life in community. I needed others to help me make my decision, and their wisdom and guidance added enormously to my discernment. Discernment involves going deeper, getting to the heart of the matter, listening to the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Discernment recognizes that God is leading us and opens us up to new possibilities. We need discernment in our fast-paced world and in our ministries.

I was able to slow down for discernment during my decision, to reflect and to pray. We can all do this during busy lives in some way. Slowing down may just be a moment, but in that moment, you may hear God's voice calling to you. The Spirit works within us to uncover the wisdom and discernment buried deep within ourselves. God, who has planted that seed, will bring it to awareness and nurture it as it grows into whatever it needs to be.

As you are on the move, may these moments support you in your ministry.

Diane McGeoch  
Retired Deacon, but still on the move and discerning God's will

**CENetwork Board:**

Diane McGeoch, *President*  
[CENpresident@faithfulteaching.org](mailto:CENpresident@faithfulteaching.org)  
Idaho

Terri Robertson, *Secretary-Historian*  
[terri.robertson62@gmail.com](mailto:terri.robertson62@gmail.com)  
California

Teresa Kaldor, *Financial Secretary*  
[kaldor.teresa3@gmail.com](mailto:kaldor.teresa3@gmail.com)  
California

Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy, *Past President*  
[Cen.julilejmanguy@gmail.com](mailto:Cen.julilejmanguy@gmail.com)  
Ohio

Julie Hestermann, *Member at Large*  
[j.hestermann@sheridanlutheran.org](mailto:j.hestermann@sheridanlutheran.org)  
Nebraska

Ellen Lundie, *Member at Large*  
[e.lundie@belc.org](mailto:e.lundie@belc.org)  
Pennsylvania

Holly Shipley, *Member at Large*  
[hshipley@holyltrinitychapelhill.org](mailto:hshipley@holyltrinitychapelhill.org)  
North Carolina

Jamie Travers, *Member at Large*  
[eandlyo@gondtc.com](mailto:eandlyo@gondtc.com)  
North Dakota

Janet Renick  
*Coordinator for Membership*  
[CENcoordinator@faithfulteaching.org](mailto:CENcoordinator@faithfulteaching.org)  
Florida

Judy Twist  
*Social Media Coordinator*  
[judy3927@gmail.com](mailto:judy3927@gmail.com)  
Illinois

**Contact Information:**

Office:

P.O. Box 250009  
Holly Hill, FL 32125

Website:

[www.faitfulteaching.org](http://www.faitfulteaching.org)

“...that they may be encouraged  
in heart and united in love...”

Colossians 2.2 (NIV)