



MAY 2022  
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

*"Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?"*

Rite of Holy Baptism, ELW page 228

I have the honor of being a godparent to two amazing young men, my nephews. Both are adults now but I clearly remember their baptisms many years ago and being asked this question. I made promises in the presence of my family, their parents, their church communities, and God that I would help to nurture their faith. This nurturing took place in the context of many relationships. I don't live near my nephews, so during their childhood many items were mailed their way that were a part of this process. I got to be present at their confirmations and other life transitions through the years.

We all nurture faith as faith formation leaders, and we need our communities more than ever. Each child or young person relates to many communities, not just our church community. This network of relationships has an influence on faith development. One of my nephews invited his lacrosse coach to his confirmation. The coach was a person of faith and had influenced my nephew in many ways. My other nephew had a history teacher who passed away suddenly. During his grieving, he shared with me how that relationship had helped him grow in his relationship with God.

We live out our baptismal promises in community. We are always creating and participating in communities in many ways. We've learned how to be communities online and have different technologies to support these efforts. I was not the only influence on my nephew's faith, they had many others through the years who supported their growth in faith. We all have a role to play, sometimes small, sometimes large. Community is our foundation as we plan for and support faith formation ministries. I know my godchildren are continually growing even though I don't see them often.

We plant seeds as leaders, and often don't see the results. We trust the work of the Spirit will come alive through communities and networks of relationships.

The Christian Education Network is a product of many communities and many relationships in many different settings. Our promise to support lifelong faith formation in the home and congregation can be lived out because of promises made and kept. We can't do this work alone, so we reach out through resources, newsletters, and collaboration. We often feel isolated in faith formation ministry. Hopefully the promise of community can help propel us forward in these challenging times.

Diane McGeoch

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*"...that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love..."*