



JULY 2022 PRESIDENT'S LETTER
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK OF THE ELCA

ADAPTABILITY

Our congregations and ministries are often in a continual state of adaptability. We change, adjust, tweak, adapt, create, and re-create constantly throughout the church year. Many things emerge from this process including new ways of doing things, new gifts we hadn't been aware of, new approaches to faith formation, and new resources, connections, and technologies. There is sometimes amazement at how well an event or program turned out when we've had to adapt or change direction.

When the ELCA Youth Gathering was cancelled, many of us began the process of living into the theme of Boundless: God Beyond Measure in new and spirit-led ways. Congregations and youth are finding new opportunities to live this out in alternate events happening across the ELCA, mission projects and servant trips, and faith filled times at our wonderful ELCA camps and retreat centers. You will be reading about some of these alternate events in this newsletter. The events and ministries are as boundless as the creativity and energy that drives them. We can be boundless because our God is boundless.

When we go from Plan A to Plan B, and sometimes beyond that to Plan C or D and beyond, we enter a challenging time. We thought we were doing one thing, but that is no longer possible. So now we enter a new thing, but what might that be? Times like these cause us to ask deep questions. What is our mission? Where does our identity come from? What is our vision for this time with our youth or congregation or faith formation ministry? What opportunity flows out of answering these questions?

It is not easy changing plans. Community is one gift in this kind of time. We depend on other people to help us bring about the new creation. We lean into others as we use our gifts to plan and plan again. It can be overwhelming to let go of the old plan, create a new one, and get others to adopt and adapt to the new creation. It is in this process that we are called to be co-creators with God, even in the mess of all of it, even in the grief of letting go, even in the confusion of wondering what the new event or ministry will look like.

When you are asking the deep questions, my best advice is to reach out. Talk to a colleague or trusted friend, reach out to that person whose gifts can get plugged into the process, pray continually for guidance and support and wisdom. These all come over time, through people and circumstances, and in ways you may not expect. I invite you to share your adaptability with the Christian Education Network of the ELCA, so we can learn from each other. Check out our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Pinterest](#) pages to see what people have been up to.

We are adapting together in God's name,

Diane McGeoch, Deacon
President, Christian Education Network of the ELCA

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and united in love...”