



MAY 2024
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Planning and Prayer

I recently had the opportunity to coordinate the planning for my new pastor's installation service.

I have always liked the activities associated with coordination. I enjoy finding gifted people, then connecting their gifts to a specific task or purpose. Coordination also includes bringing different groups of people together. The installation service had a lot of different parts, which needed support from a wide variety of people.

The planning took place over several weeks and required a lot of time. About a week before the service, after my last series of meetings with church council and worship and music, I realized I had forgotten something. I had not been praying for the service in an intentional way. I knew others were praying, but I hadn't prayed in a purposeful way. Every day in the week leading up to the service I set aside time to pray. Sometimes this was with other people, sometimes it was a part of my individual devotions, sometimes it was during other activities.

The Christian Education Network has been planning for over a year to enter a new way of being. This process began with a time of discernment, followed by a time of discovery, and now to the present time when we are in the action phase. We spent several months interviewing potential partners, having conversations as a Board, and then voting in October 2023 to merge with the Association of Partners in Christian Education. This entire process has been surrounded by prayer every step of the way.

The faith formation process requires many gifts used over time, a network of relationships, and prayers supporting the many aspects of our work. It seems appropriate that the action phase of our merger reflects these steps as we continue to live out the mission of supporting lifelong faith in the home and congregation. We are using many gifts and relationships as we seek to build a stable future and strengthen our mission.

I invite you to pray for this process as you carry out your ministry of faith formation. Members will receive the Missional Merger Document the week of June 3rd. This document outlines our relationship with APCE. A ballot will be emailed the week of June 10th, and the deadline for voting is June 17th. Our Board and partners have been praying for over a year as we've discerned and discovered together. Our Network is a strong network because we are a community of pray-ers.

I am praying continually for all of you, and for this process. The link to the website for APCE is below for your reference, and the missional Merger Document will provide background and details as well.

<https://apcenet.org/>

Yours in Christ,
Diane McGeoch

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