



Executive Board:

Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy
President
Ohio

Teresa Kaldor
Financial Secretary
California

Terri Robertson
Secretary - Historian
California

Stephanie Pasch
Coordinator for Membership
Minnesota

Contact Information:

Office:
P.O. Box 9304
Rochester, MN 55903

Website:
www.faithfulteaching.org

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

Dear friends,

Each year I block out two days in August for the following year. Those two days fill my heart and my notebook and this year was no different. Perhaps some of you also participated in those two days. For nearly 20 years, every August, I spend two days with the Global Leadership Summit. This year the format was different because of Covid, but the message was the same challenging, affirming, and thought provoking – especially if you didn't agree with the speaker. Throughout the two days I was texting friends with whom I would normally sit. We acknowledged that what we really missed was the companionship and conversation as we processed each block of messages.

Paula Faris spoke on how to lead through life's resets. Many of us are having constant conversations about what worship and faith formation will look like in the months ahead. Some of us resumed a hybrid in-person worship only to return to online only as the number of confirmed cases rose. Whether we use the term pivot or reset, the idea is the same. We are now responsible for making decisions that we are not experienced enough or even qualified to make.

Faris offered three steps to leading through this time of uncertainty.

1. If you have peace, then proceed. Listen to your inner spirit. Are your choices clashing with your values? Have the courage to make the changes needed in order to find peace.
2. Expect and anticipate fear. Fear is normal. Fear leads us to limit ourselves. But fear and peace can co-exist. Think of Martin Luther King's definition of faith: taking the first step even when you cannot see the staircase.
3. Give yourself permission to branch out. Look at what is unique to you and to your current situation. We joke about change, but this is a time when we can all reset, renew and restore our ministries to what is truly important.

We also need to lament – to acknowledge what we have lost. Over 40% of all the Psalms are laments. The book of Lamentations has much to teach us. Lament recognizes the struggles of life. Lament cries out in the midst of uncertainty. Lament mourns what has been lost. We do not lament well but with practice we can reclaim our biblical heritage.

To help us teach and practice lament and resiliency are new resources available at ELCA.org/Faith-Practices. "Resiliency includes others, hope, and meaning! That's nothing new to God. Jesus lived it. The Holy Spirit provides all three on a continual basis. These new resources use the Five Gifts of Discipleship as a framework to explore resiliency in these times." Available for immediate download are the following resources: [Resiliency: Faith Practices in Tough Times](#); [Resiliency: Setting Free our Lament](#); and [Resiliency: Parent's Guide](#). In addition, there is a wonderful video conversation featuring our own Brenda Smith ([Lament: A Conversation with Brenda Smith](#)).

Wherever you serve in whatever capacity, please know you are not alone. Check out the resources at FaithfulTeaching.org and join the Christian Education Network of the ELCA Facebook group. Together we can reset and grow into our new future.

Blessings on the journey,
The Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy, President