



CENetwork Board:

Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy
President
CENpresident@faithfulteaching.org
Ohio

Terri Robertson
Secretary-Historian
terri.robertson62@gmail.com
California

Teresa Kaldor
Financial Secretary
kaldor.teresa3@gmail.com
California

Julie Hestermann
Member at Large
j.hestermann@sheridanlutheran.org
Nebraska

Carole Joyce
Member at Large
carole35@charter.net
Minnesota

Diane McGeoch
Member at Large
d1mcgeoch@juno.com
Idaho

Stephanie Pasch
Coordinator for Membership
CENcoordinator@faithfulteaching.org
Minnesota

Judy Twist
Social Media Coordinator
judy3927@gmail.com
Illinois

Contact Information:

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

Website:
www.fithfulteaching.org

“...that they may be
encouraged in heart
...”

Dear friends,

February is packed full for youth workers and Christian educators. I was privileged to be able to attend the Extravaganza and the Association of Presbyterian Christian Education (APCE) virtual event: *Anything But Ordinary*.

The first session at the APCE was *A Generous and Expanded Table: Reimagining the Beloved Community*. The Rev. Bruce Reyes Chow offered the following advice:

***Stop being surprised by how well you and the churches you serve
have done during the pandemic.***

Why are we surprised? We are doing the best we can with what we have in the most unusual circumstances. This is a message I need to hear as much as I need to share.

Rev. Chow went on to challenge us to think forward, basing his comments on Exodus 36:1-7. God was reminding the people that God gave them the skills necessary to build a moveable sanctuary. The people saw the vision and brought so many offerings, they had more than enough.

We know that we will never be completely back to “the good old days” and I am thankful for that. But we also need to be intentional in our visioning. Do we need to go back to meetings around a table? Or are there times we can include others if we meet on Zoom? Are there people you are reaching by being online that you might not be reaching if you go back to onsite and in-person only?

And what about faith formation? I know many of us have shifted to the home. For over two decades, I have worked with Faith Formation teams trying to figure out how to get the family involved. Now the question is how do we nurture that so it becomes the norm?

So, the conversations continue. One resource to check out is the Facebook group: Zoom Faith.

You will also notice that our own format is changing this year. We are lifting up resources, congregations, and books that will help us all as we discern faith formation post-COVID. As always, if you know of a congregation, a resource or a book that has impacted your ministry or your life of faith, be sure to share. Check out the Christian Education Network of the ELCA Facebook group for more ideas and conversation.

Keep up the good and faithful work.

Blessings and peace as we enter into this Lenten season.

Pastor Juli Lejman-Guy, President