

Sharon's Musings

I have been struck by the theme the NC Women of the ELCA used this past year. "Sister, take my hand." It is very meaningful to and for me. Offering you my hand can be an extremely personal and revealing thing. When I offer you my hand, I am opening up and revealing myself—revealing me to you. And, in that gesture, I ask from you the support, caring, and nurturing that I may need. When I take your hand, I agree to honor your history and offer to you the support, caring and nurturing that you may need.

At the Gathering in June, I had the overwhelming honor of being elected the President of the NC Women of the ELCA. Over the past few weeks the gravity and magnitude of what that entails has begun to set in. I am excited by all the future has in store for us, but I realize how much I need you, my sisters, to take my hand and lead me, teach me, work with me and serve with me in the months ahead.

As we begin to work on the theme for the coming year, as we flesh out how each committee, conference, and congregational expression will use the theme and as we put those plans into practice, I want and need to feel your hands. Our theme for the coming year is "Women of Faith, With Arms Wide Open." How will we use it? Will we emphasize the welcoming, embracing, and forgiving feelings that run through our heads and hearts when we see loving open arms? Will we emphasize the caring and generosity that flows through us when reach out our arms to others? Sister, take my hand as we move into this new year.