

WOMEN OF THE ELCA – LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

Purpose Statement

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”

The Mission of Women of the ELCA

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Women’s Organization WELCA Executive board has stayed connected by Zoom meetings. Some of our congregation units have done the same. They are meeting by Zoom for Bible studies, business and fellowship.

PIVOT DON’T PANIC! - A Leadership Event for Presidents and Friends was held February 18-20, 2021. It was a pivot by churchwide WELCA. Instead of an in-person weekend the Conference of Presidents in Chicago, comprising 64 synodical presidents plus five board members from each synod unit attended this invitation-only Zoom meeting. It was an opportunity to connect and be in conversation and to learn and be informed about WELCA. Thursday evening, we met informally by synod to introduce ourselves, answer questions and share. Friday afternoon, Lisa Plorin, our churchwide WELCA president, and Linda Post Bushkofsky, our executive director, welcomed us. We did a native land acknowledgment and referenced the Doctrine of Discovery. Our Bible study, Leadership-A Baptismal Vocation, was led by the Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock. Purpose, prayer, praise and plan were highlighted throughout the Bible study, as well as pivot and the sport of basketball. We did small group breakout sessions. The Exodus stories of Shiphrah and Pirah, the midwives and Moses’ mother and sister, were examples of Bible women who chose to “Pivot Don’t Panic”. Linda Post Bushkofsky spoke of purpose, mission, changes and actions of churchwide WELCA. We educate and advocate for racism, immigration, domestic violence and trafficking issues. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton talked about the future of our church, changes and answered questions. She said our shared purpose is to activate each of us so more people know Jesus and discover community, justice and love. “Our church is rooted in tradition, but radically relevant.” Saturday, we heard a “state of ministry” report from our president, treasurer, executive director. Our churchwide staff followed with “pivoting” information and tools from their specific mission areas. We closed with a Thank Offering service led by our chaplain, Deacon Patricia Carley.

We have scheduled Our Day of Renewal on Saturday, May 8, 2021. It will be held at Camp Nawakwa, Upper Camp Pavilion. Norma Good will talk about “Where God Leads Us”. She will tell her story of 30 years as the synod coordinator for LWR and other faith adventures.

Upcoming Events

11th Triennial Convention, “JUST LOVE”, will be a Zoom event, August 5-8, 2021; 33rd Annual Convention will be held at St. John, Berrysburg, September 25, 2021; 31st Camp Hebron Retreat is scheduled for October 29-31, 2021; 12th Triennial Gathering, “JUST LOVE”, is scheduled for Phoenix, AZ, September 2023.

YES, we will remember to PIVOT DON’T PANIC!

Lois Ann Griffiths, *president, Lower Susquehanna Synod Women’s Organization*