



**FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION**
May 2017

“For Your Consideration” is an occasional information piece about people in mission. Its purpose is to help connect people with other people as they fulfill their ministry. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute as appropriate for your congregational setting. Suggestions for future articles may be sent to:

Bob.Dealey@csis-elca.org

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT Teaching People How to Grow In Their Faith

One of the joys and responsibilities of being a parent (or grandparent) is teaching your children (or grandchildren) basic life skills, i.e. things like how to get dressed; or the proper way to hold and use a utensil; how to behave in public; how to get along with others; how to do household chores; how to manage money; how to cook; or even how to ride a bicycle or drive a car. We teach children how to do these things, so that they may be better prepared or more effective in their daily lives.

Every family is different and every family takes a different approach as to how it teaches future generations how to do these things. Some parents play an active role in parenting their children, while other parents are more passive. The same could be said of the Church. One of the joys and responsibilities of being a member of the body of Christ is that we teach future generations basic life skills. We teach others how to do certain things that will help them to be better prepared or more effective in how they live out their faith. Some congregations take an active role in their educational ventures, while other congregations play a more passive role.

With that in mind, what do you and your congregation, teach others? What do you and your congregation teach others about God or Jesus or the Holy Spirit? What do you teach people about the Bible, or worship, or prayer? What do you teach people about some basic Christian life skills, i.e. how to behave; how to help others; or even how to manage money? What is your congregation teaching, in order that people may be better prepared or more effective in their daily lives?

These are important questions for us to ask ourselves, because they provide us with the opportunity for us to examine the things that we teach and our motivations for teaching. They also help us to evaluate the effectiveness of our congregation’s teaching ministry. What role does Christian education play in the life and ministry of your congregation? How important is it for your congregation to teach people how to grow in their faith? What could be done to make your congregation’s ministry of Christian education more effective? What basic life skills do you think are important for all people to know?

Reflection Questions

1. What is the most important thing that your congregation teaches others?
2. How does what your congregation teaches, “prepare people to be better prepared or more effective in how they live out their faith”?
3. Why do you think it is important for your congregation to teach people how to grow in their faith?