



*"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)"*

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever depended on, better yet let's say slavishly trusted your GPS to take you to a place even though you have been there so many times..... but then all of a sudden it takes you off your familiar path onto a road not taken? I confess I have with amazing results.

My oldest daughter and her husband just moved from Fort Worth to Greenville so they could be closer to family. They built an adorable home in Greenville. I have to admit that every time I go and visit them I take a toll road. In fact, I can only get there on my own via this toll road....it's my path. For some strange reason my husband strongly encourages me to find a new way to get there without spending \$6.00 per round trip every time I drive to their house. The nerve of him!

Recently, I headed out on my visit to see my daughter and out of habit I plugged her address into my GPS. I started going the same old way until I heard my husband's little voice in my head..."don't take the toll road, we need the money". So, when I came to my usual turn I quickly decided to just stay straight. I had no idea where I was heading but eventually Alice (my name for my GPS) adjusted and we forged ahead. Even though I had no idea where I was or where Alice would lead me, I settled in for the ride and trusted Alice to get me where I needed to go. On this new path I experienced the beauty of country roads I had never seen; I drove by a few restaurants I had heard of but had no idea where they were located. I witnessed the beauty of pastures with cows and horses grazing. It was truly an amazing way to get to my daughter's new house and even better I made it without paying the tolls. I gave Alice all the praise for getting me where I needed to go. Even my husband, who refuses to listen to Alice, gave her praise for saving us money.

You may be wondering what Alice has to do with the SC Women of the ELCA. Let me explain. It's been a while since I have served in a leadership role. Yes, I am a little rusty and I need to brush up on Robert's Rules, Constitutional guidelines and Standing Rules. But I am eager to roll up my sleeves and get started. The past three years have been a challenge for the SC WELCA Board and I know it has been difficult staying connected during this pandemic. We are still challenged with the pandemic and we had to adjust to a new way of accomplishing our journey. We had our first virtual convention. Even though we had issues and bumps in the road, we trusted the company that was hired to help us through those curves with grace. We also asked each of you for your grace and patience as we maneuvered that day. We finished our journey that day and I was shocked and honored that you voted me in as your next President. I have big shoes to fill after Becky Koch's leadership over the past five years. Becky has done a fabulous job guiding us on our journey and I only hope that I will have just as much grace and determination as she did.

You also elected a new SC WELCA Board Members and I am eager to start my journey with all of these new and returning talented ladies from across the state of South Carolina. They have committed themselves to focusing on all the work and the missions we have to accomplish this coming year. We are committed to moving this organization forward and finding some normalcy as well. As God steers us in a new and exciting direction, I thank each of you for your dedication and service in our organization. I ask each of you to continue to support one another and our organization so that we can focus on the missions and work ahead of us.

Am I nervous? Yes, a little, but with God as my Alice I trust in Him to guide me and steer us in the right direction. As the above Bible verse states, God will make our path straight. It will take an effort on all our parts to start this adventure but I know in my heart God will not fail us. I know the new scenery we will experience will be wonderful and our journey will take us to fabulous places, strengthening our faith as servants to our Lord.

Your Sister In Christ,

Risse Snelgrove