

# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

Years ago, I was given a "Life Verse", one that I could recite and live by. It is Matthew 6:33 *"Seek Ye First the kingdom of God, and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given unto you."*

This direction has served me well in 30 years of ministry, and which has now brought me to this time and place as the Sabbatical Supply Acting Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania where I am awash in a Council of Bishops of every stripe and creed, Christian Justice and Peace organizations, and Interfaith Justice and Peace organizations that are all trying their best (in my mind) to "seek first the kingdom of God" where all God's creation and creatures are respected, loved, and cared for.

These dear people are refreshment for my soul like a gift directly from God. I give thanks for all of them, and the varied important work that they do for justice and peace. For this work is not without price of time, resources, energy, and sometimes personal or professional push-back in these divisive times.

One of the things I have learned the past few months is that for Rev. Liddy and the Council of Bishops there is much to do, and not enough time for her, or them, to keep all the plates spinning, or all the balls in the air.

At present we, as a council, have been doing some strategic planning, and we ask your prayers for us as we continue the process. It is my hope that we can build on the direction we have charted, and open the gates wider to invite others to join us in the mission work God sets before us in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Reverend Liddy has been a friend of mine for a long time and is very well suited for the work of Executive Minister of Christian Associates. I hope she has found time to rest and refresh her soul and renew her excitement for the work God sets before her upon her return.

Thank you everyone for making me feel welcome in this honored position.

Respectfully,

Linda

Reverend Linda Miller-Pretz  
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Acting Executive Minister  
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