

Elder Appointee Professor Nancy G. Maxwell

Thank you very much, Rev. Elder Nancy.

I am very pleased to be able to spend this time with you and to talk to you a little bit about what my hope is in serving as an Elder with MCC.

I have been in MCC for 25 years now. I began attending the MCC at Topeka in 1990 and in 2010 I attended the Moderator's Leadership Mentoring Retreat, and then in 2011, I was asked if I would be interested in being a co-coordinator for the LEAD program, the Laity Empowered for Active Discipleship program.

I want to say that it is my hope as I serve as an Elder for MCC that we can work in a partnership between the laity and the clergy and that my recommendation to be appointed to this particular body is, in my mind, a commitment from the denomination, and from the people who are important in making policy within the denomination, that the laity and the insights and gifts of the laity are not only welcomed, but they are being asked to serve this denomination.

We have trained many lay leaders under the LEAD program. We now have over 100 people participating in the lay leader certificate program. I am so pleased and honored to be serving with the people who have implemented this program that has come out of the Office of Formation and Leadership Development.

I hope to bring to this role as Elder my gifts of pastoral care, of administration, and of discernment. I have spend a great deal of time in my own path in discerning and listening to the voice of God and I am so grateful for the denomination of MCC to be open to so many different ways that people can bring their gifts. I encourage laity to work in partnership with their clergy and that they know that they can be important in the future of this denomination.

“Laity” is the work of the people of God and that is, in fact, what we all are doing.

There is no distinction in God's eyes between the work of those who carry the title of “Reverend” and those who do not. And my place on the council is that gift that says that to all those who do not have the title of “Reverend”.

But I also want to say to my pastor brothers and sisters, I know your path is hard; I know that you find yourselves sometimes alone, and I thank you for the fact that you are willing to do that, and I pray for you.

Thank you very much.