

Why Have an Affirmation

Most of our congregational units have a constitution. Several units, especially if newly formed or small groups have affirmations. Sometimes a group with a constitution can know longer find women to take the leadership roles especially president. There are other models with a co-ordinating council. They do not need to disband. They can even switch to an affirmation. You don't have to have officers but you need a contact person, preferably one with an email address. Sometimes new groups don't want to have a constitution - too formal. Affirmations allow a group of women to subscribe to the purpose of the Women of the ELCA. That means to meet, 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. So if you have a group that meets for a particular ministry or Bible Study you are probably fulfilling the purpose. Now you just need to participate in Women of the ELCA programs. It might include one or more of the following Lutheran World Relief, Spring Gathering, SWO Fall Gathering at Lake Yale, e-Magazine *Cafe*, print magazine *Gather*, Daily Grace, etc. This is not a complete list. It also means to contribute to the support of Synodical Women's Organization through remitting a portion of regular offerings to the SWO treasurer. The SWO treasurer will then forward 55% to churchwide Women of the ELCA. That's what covers the cost for *Cafe*, *Daily Grace*, subsidizes subscriptions to *Gather*, provides free-downloadable materials (over 50 and more coming all the time) from the churchwide website. It's easy to be a congregational unit of the Women of the ELCA.

If you sent a delegate in either of the last two years to SWO Fall Gathering at Lake Yale we have your unit on file. If you are not sure if your group has a constitution or affirmation on file with SWO, just email webmaster@flwelca.com. I'll check it out.

Elaine Heine