

Dear Rostered Leader,

The ELCA is developing a social statement on women and justice. The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ issued the “Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice” on Nov. 15, 2017, online, and a print copy was mailed to every congregation. The comment period runs until Sept. 30, 2018.

As God’s people together, we are in a period of conversation that gives all members a chance to read, discern and respond to this draft. I want to highlight several ways for you and members of your congregation to share comments and reflections on the text. As coordinator of efforts in our synod, I hope that you will share this information with your congregation.

First and most simply, anyone can read and respond to the draft by obtaining a copy online or in print. You can find a response form online at [bit.ly/womenandjusticedraft](https://surveys.elca.org/scripts/rws5.pl?FORM=wjeval), or in the back of the draft booklet, with specific questions to facilitate the task force’s revision of the draft.

To get the draft:

• Download it in English or Spanish at [ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://www.elca.org/womenandjustice).

• Order a single complimentary copy by calling 800-638-3522.

• Visit the ELCA resource e-store at [bit.ly/OrderWJDraft](http://resources.elca.org/Men-Draft_Social_Statement_on_Women_and_Justice_2.html) to order paper copies.

Secondly, you or lay leaders could hold a discussion group dedicated to the draft statement. This provides an opportunity for a deeper understanding of this theologically based document. The draft contains an accessible “Basic Statement” of eight pages that can form the bulk of a discussion by a group, as well as an in-depth “Fuller Explanation.”

Finally, our synod will host a hearing on **(ENTER DATE AND TIME)** at **(ENTER LOCATION)**. A representative of the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ will be at the hearing. An appointed recorder will keep track of everything said (without names) and submit a report to the task force.

The task force is committed to reading all submitted written comments as they consider how to revise the draft into a proposed social statement, which will be released in February 2019.

Since the development of a social statement is a churchwide process of theological reflection that emphasizes moral deliberation and broad participation, I hope you will encourage participation in your congregation. I especially invite you to issue a broad invitation to your congregation to discuss the draft and/or attend the hearing so they may participate fully.

With thanks for your ministry and with a request for your prayers in this important moment in the development of this statement.

Yours in Christ,

**(ENTER HEARING COORDINATOR NAME)**



**More information can be found at** [ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://www.elca.org/womenandjustice)**.**



Some background information:

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly mandated the development of this statement, and the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ has guided the process since 2012. The process has included over 100 listening events, the development of the study “Faith, Sexism, Justice*”* and the publication of this draft for comment. The draft was released on Nov. 15, 2017, on the ELCA’s web site, and every ELCA congregation received a printed copy of the draft by mail. The comment period runs until Sept. 30, 2018, and the task force will conclude its work by issuing a revised statement in February 2019. The social statement is to be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

