

Dear rostered leader,

The ELCA is developing a social statement on women and justice. As a church, we are in a period of conversation that gives all members a chance to read and respond to the “Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice” issued by the task force. There are 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.

While there are several ways to participate, this email is an invitation to you and the members of your congregation to attend our synod’s hearing on (DATE AND TIME) at (LOCATION). This hearing is an important opportunity for members of the church to respond to the text of the draft statement and to hear the perspectives of others, as well.

A representative of the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ will be present at the hearing.

Hearings are not debates or even discussions. Participants are led by a convener through the document and have a chance to share their comments and suggestions about each section of the text. An appointed recorder will keep track of everything said (without names) and submit a report to the task force. Members of the task force will read all the reports as they prepare to revise the text during late fall of 2018. The task force will conclude its work by issuing a revised statement in February 2019. To find information on other ways to participate, go to [ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice).

The task force members ask that you keep them in your prayers, and they hope for a wide participation in this period of comment. I thank you for your attention and your efforts to encourage participation by your congregation.

Yours in Christ,

(HEARING COORDINATOR NAME)

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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 website, and every ELCA congregation received a printed copy of the draft by mail. The comment period runs until Sept. 30, 2018. The social statement is to be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

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

