

Task force members

Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, co-chair, pastor
Brad Wendel, co-chair, professor of law
Bruce Berg, pastor, retired career military
Diane Brauer, administrative assistant
Clare Josef-Maier, therapist
Darren Diggs, solution designer
Bethany Fayard, sales and marketing
Fern Lee Hagedorn, media consultant
Erik Heen, professor of New Testament
Linda Herrera, community organizer
Kit Kleinhans, professor of religion
Lori Kochanski, pastor
Sherry L. Liske, registered nurse
Mary Lowe, professor of theology
Heber Rast, electrical engineer, retired
William Rodriguez, professor of ethics
John Roth, bishop, Central/Southern Illinois
Ann Svenningsen, bishop, Minneapolis Area
Solomon Trimble, youth program coordinator

Governance advisers

James H. Utt, ELCA Church Council, pastor
Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director,
Women of the ELCA
Leslie Swenson ELCA Church Council

Churchwide staff

Mary Streufert, director for Justice for Women
Roger Willer, director for Theological Ethics
Heather Dean, administrative services
coordinator

What is a social statement?

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist in the discernment of social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, deliberation and thoughtful engagement as we participate in God's work in the world. Social statements also govern policy related to social issues for the ELCA as an institution and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and discernment and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



About the work toward an ELCA social statement on women and justice

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is currently in the process of developing a social statement on women and justice. This brochure provides an overview of the process. See the website below or email for more information.

www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice

womenandjustice@elca.org

A task force-led process

Responding to the call received from the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, a task force was assembled to lead the process of social statement formation. The task force is composed of 19 ELCA members selected to represent diverse walks of life, perspectives, genders, geographic regions, ethnicities and skill sets. The task force has studied relevant topics and discussed important issues that will allow them to draft a social statement that represents the hopes and concerns of the whole church.

Learn more and let us know what you think!

Web: www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice

Email: womenandjustice@elca.org

How to be involved

• Faith, Sexism, Justice

From over one hundred listening events, the Task Force developed the Study, titled *Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement*. The study is divided into seven modules. They are designed to be flexible. Use them in the order that works best for your context. Use this study on your own or form a group. Each module is followed with a response form. Your input is essential in ensuring that the social statement addresses issues that members find most pressing. There is no better source of information than you!

• Study resources

- The task force is currently providing brief resources for your use. See the adjacent panel for more information.
- The study, *Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement*, is out now. Share your responses with the task force by August 31, 2017!

• Draft comment period

From November 2017 through October 2018, a draft of a social statement will be available for comment. Hearings will be held around the country as an opportunity for members and congregations to review the draft's content and give valuable feedback before the period of revision. (See timeline below.) Members are also encouraged to send letters and emails to express their thoughts and concerns.

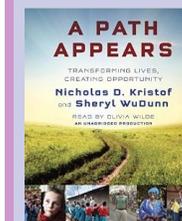
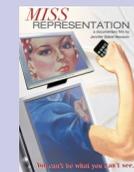
• Process Builders

New for this social statement process are teams of Process Builders. These individuals in a synod are trained to strengthen communication and awareness. Process Builders act as a link between the Task Force and congregations and other ministries. They can lead the *Faith, Sexism, Justice* study and educate about the social statement formation process. If you would like to be put in touch with your local process builder, send an e-mail to womenandjustice@elca.org.

Current resources

'Miss Representation'

"Miss Representation" unpacks how the media objectifies women and examines the effect of this powerful medium on both men and women. A discussion guide can be found online.



'A Path Appears'

This powerful documentary provides a look into gender inequalities around the world and in the U.S. and organizations that are working to transform women and girls' lives. A discussion guide can be found online.

Seeking Understanding: Some Issues in Biblical Interpretation Regarding Women and Justice



Drawing clues from Book of Faith resources, this study invites you into conversation around how the Bible can be faithfully read in a discussion of women and justice today.



Human Trafficking

This curriculum series provides six one-hour sessions that present the facts of human trafficking and discuss how we as Lutherans can affect change in the systems that allow human trafficking to continue.

