

Dear President of the Congregation Council,

As you are probably aware, the ELCA is in the process of developing a social statement on human sexuality. The draft social statement was released on March 13, 2008, via the Web and all congregations were sent copies of the draft. The **(ENTER SYNOD NAME)** will be holding a hearing on the Draft ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality to listen to the comments members of this church have on the draft.

Broad involvement in this part of the process is vital to the development of this social statement. Feedback from all synodical hearings will be recorded and submitted to the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality. The task force will consider these comments as they draft and finalize the Proposed Statement on Human Sexuality. That proposed statement will be the document sent to the ELCA Church Council in March of 2009. The Church Council is responsible for reviewing the text of the proposed statement and recommending the final proposed text to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

As congregation council president, there are a few things you can do to help your congregation to be involved in this part of the process:

- Encourage your members to hold a study group on the draft statement.
- Read and study the statement yourself and encourage other members to do the same.
- Attend the synodical hearing as an opportunity to both speak and listen.

The **(ENTER SYNOD NAME)** hearing will be **(ENTER DATE AND TIME)** at **(ENTER LOCATION)**.

There are several ways to receive a copy of the Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality:

- Online at www.elca.org/faithfuljourney
- A complimentary copy can be ordered through a special resource line at 800-638-3522 ext. 2996.
- Multiple copies for group study will be available from Augsburg Fortress (800-328-4648). Ask for: Draft of a Social Statement on Human Sexuality; item number 978-6-0002-2079-2, cost is \$0.25 per copy.

To learn more about the social statement or the synodical hearing, please visit www.elca.org/faithfuljourney or call the synod office at **(ENTER SYNOD PHONE NUMBER)**.

We thank you for your prayers and continued involvement in this process.

Yours in Christ,

(ENTER HEARING COORDINATOR NAME)