

Dear Rostered Leader,

I would like to extend to you and the members of your congregation an invitation to attend a hearing on the Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality sponsored by our synod. This is an important opportunity for members of the **(INSERT SYNOD NAME)**. This provides a chance both to respond to the ideas in the draft statement and to hear the perspectives of others about these issues.

Let me offer some background information...

The 2001 Churchwide Assembly mandated a social statement on human sexuality (along with requesting a report and recommendations regarding homosexuality and ministry issues). Social statements in our church are developed in a participatory process. For that purpose the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality developed three studies in the "Journey Together Faithfully" series. These were made available to all congregations and included response forms for members. These responses, along with communication in the form of letters and e-mails from rostered leaders and lay members of this church, have helped the task force to know this church's thinking on these issues.

On March 13 the task force issued a Draft Social Statement for this church's consideration. Hearings are the next step in the participatory process.

This synod will host the hearing on **(ENTER DATE AND TIME)** at **(ENTER LOCATION)**. A representative of the task force will be present and comments at the hearing will be summarized by a synod representative. Both reports will be shared with the whole task force as they consider how to revise the draft and craft the Proposed Statement on Human Sexuality for 2009.

You are encouraged to attend this event and we ask that you encourage broad participation by your congregation. It may help to hold a study on the draft statement within the congregation so that members will have a better understanding of this theologically based document.

With thanks for your prayers and involvement in this process.

Yours in Christ,

**(ENTER HEARING COORDINATOR NAME)**