

Diane Brauer, member of the Women and Justice: One in Christ Task Force invites you to give feedback on their recently released draft social statement. The hearing will open with a brief explanation of the social statement process, and then each attendee will be able to give affirmations and suggestions about specific lines of the text.

The 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized the development of a social statement for this church on this topic because of memorials from synods requesting it. In accordance with ELCA processes, a task force was created to study the issues, provide resource material, create a draft and offer a proposed social statement that may be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ has written this draft statement as a means to receive input from across this church. Draft social statements have no official standing as teaching of the ELCA. They are a means for everyone to participate in the process of developing a social statement.

The draft begins with and is rooted in our common foundation, a confession of faith in the Triune God. From this certainty of faith flow 36 assertions, divided into five sections. These assertions claim God's intention of abundant life for all, confess sexism and patriarchy as sin, name the resources of Lutheran faith to address this sin, and articulate this church's work and its call to religious and secular partners. It closes with an expression of hope for justice, grounded in trust in God's promise of grace.

To prepare for the hearing:

- Please read the draft prior to the hearing
- Please be ready with the line numbers you would like to commend or suggest changes to

Please note:

- The hearing will go through each section of the text sequentially, and attendees will be invited to offer their comments on particular lines in that section
- The hearing will not offer an opportunity for dialogue between attendees about the substance of the text, though congregations are encouraged to sponsor discussion groups for that purpose.

To download or order a copy of the text, go to [www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice). It is available in English and Spanish.