



## 2019 Churchwide Assembly Report of the Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee

Thursday, August 8, 2019

### Introduction

The purpose of the Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee is to facilitate the work of the Churchwide Assembly through discussion and evaluation of amendments related to the recommended proposed social statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action.” As part of its work, the committee is responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of each amendment submitted by the assembly deadline;
- Assisting those who have submitted amendments with language or wording;
- Assisting, if possible, in forming consensus with authors of motions of like substance or interest;
- Proposing recommendations to the assembly relative to each amendment for use in deliberations.

The deadline for submitting changes to the recommended proposed social statement was 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2019. All motions were addressed by the Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee to facilitate more effective action by the assembly. This committee expresses gratitude to all who worked on behalf of the church to respond to the text of the recommended proposed social statement and related implementing resolutions.

For purposes of consistency and clarity, the Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee combined and edited one or more of the amendments in consultation with the originating author.

Throughout its deliberations, the committee was intentional about recommending adoption of amendments that strengthened the intent and coherence of the existing text.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Leslie J. Swenson, *co-chair* (Church Council)  
The Rev. James H. Utt, *co-chair* (Church Council)  
The Rev. Ann M. Svennungsen (Conference of Bishops)  
The Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld (Women and Justice Task Force)  
The Rev. Kathryn Kleinhans, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)  
Ms. Mary Lowe, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)  
Mr. William Rodriguez, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)  
Mr. Brad Wendel (Women and Justice Task Force)  
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)  
Ms. Mary J. Streufert, Ph.D. (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)  
The Rev. Roger A. Willer, Ph.D. (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)

**Report I**  
**Amendments to the Recommended Proposed Social Statement**  
**“Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”**

**A. The Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee recommends the following amendments be adopted for the recommended proposed social statement:**

**Amendment A1:**

*Submitted by:* Ms. Donna Bergstrom (Northeastern Minnesota Synod, 3E) and  
Mr. Matthew Hazzard (Southern Ohio Synod, 6F)

*In Article 9, at line 93, and in the full statement at line 624*

Following “nationality” add:

“(including American Indian and Alaska Native), religious identity”

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members, this amendment is designed to expand the list of intersectional categories and identities through which people see themselves.

**Amendment A2:**

*Submitted by:* Bp. S. John Roth (Central/Southern Illinois, 5C)

*Footnote 11 (referenced on line 437):*

Remove the final sentence of footnote 11 and substitute:

“This statement does not revisit the matters addressed in the 2009 social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*. It should not be interpreted as contradicting this church’s recognition of all four conviction sets identified in that social statement, p. 18, [www.elca.org/socialstatements](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements).

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members, this amendment is designed to clarify expressed concerns.

**Amendment A3:**

*Submitted by:* Bp. H. Julian Gordy (Southeastern Synod, 9D)

*At Lines: 2, 38, 309, 1686*

Delete the word “Lutheran” from the subtitle, to read “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action.”

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members, this amendment is designed to improve the title by removing the word “Lutheran.” With the exception of the very first social statement, titles of other ELCA social statements focus on the subject discussed and do not use the term “Lutheran.” The removal of “Lutheran” in the title makes clear that this statement speaks to public and ecumenical audiences as well.

**Report II**  
**Amendments to the Recommended Proposed Implementing Resolutions**  
**for “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”**

**B. The Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee recommends the following amendments be adopted for the recommended proposed social statement:**

**Amendment B1:**

*Submitted by:* The Rev. Hannah Benedict (Upstate New York Synod, 7D)

*At Line 1711 - Implementing Resolution 7:*

Substitute a revised paragraph that reads:

To urge congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization (CWO) to address inequities (in pay, senior leadership, availability of second and third calls, etc.), as well as the systemic causes of such inequities, for rostered and lay women of various backgrounds, identities, and personal experiences and to advocate for adequate and equitable leave for all parents and families.

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members, this amendment is designed to address both individual circumstances and systemic causes and recognizes that the need for equitable parental and family leave affects all persons.

**Amendment B2**

*Submitted by:* Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

*At Line 1714 - Implementing Resolution 8*

Append an additional item:

“(c) to explore the development of an inclusive language lectionary similar to the Psalter in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.”

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members, this amendment is designed to provide specificity in the document’s encouragement for using scriptural resources that are inclusive.

**Amendment B3**

*Submitted by:* Mr. Charles Wilson (Southwestern Texas Synod, 4E)

*At Line 1730 - Implementing Resolution 12:*

Substitute a revised paragraph that reads:

“To encourage the ministries of Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission to continue and expand their work to address the issues identified in this social statement and to commend greater participation in these efforts.”

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members, this amendment is designed to encourage the ongoing work of gender and neighbor justice of these ministries.

**Amendment B4**

*Submitted by:* Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

*At Line 1735 - Implementing Resolution 13:*

Following the word “stories” add:

“Bible studies”

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members, this amendment is designed to add this scriptural resource to the list.

**Amendment B5**

*Submitted by:* The Rev. Hannah Benedict (Upstate New York Synod, 7D)

*At Line 1744 - Implementing Resolution 16:*

Substitute a revised paragraph that reads:

To call on the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to embed and incorporate anti-sexism training and protocols in their ongoing work, including appropriate adaptations to boundaries training for rostered ministers, and to create institutional resources to support rostered ministers who experience sexual misconduct or gender-based harassment, as well as pastoral care resources for all affected by sexism.

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members, this amendment is designed to encourage all members of the ELCA to respect one another's boundaries, engage our own implicit biases, and to recognize that rostered ministers also experience gender-based harassment. In addition, resources are needed to address these realities.

**Amendment B6**

*Submitted by:* Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

*At Line 1747 - New Implementing Resolution 17*

Insert a new Implementing Resolution as follows:

To direct the ELCA Church Council to establish a process for public repentance regarding the sins of patriarchy and sexism and establish a churchwide day of confession and repentance no later than the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

*Rationale:*

Based on feedback from voting members a new resolution seems necessary. Within the statement, this church has confessed our complicity in the sins of sexism and patriarchy (Article 16). This resolution puts these words into action in worship and in our lives. The ELCA Church Council is the most appropriate body to lead this church in such a public act of confession and repentance.

*(This change would mean that the original Implementing Resolution 17 becomes Implementing Resolution 18.)*