Research Survey: Reconsideration of the ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality

The ELCA is currently in a process to reconsider a few sections of the 2009 social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*. Reconsideration is a formal process that invites the church to deliberate about specific questions related to parts of a social teaching. (The reconsiderations authorized by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly are below.) The task force leading this process has prepared a small set of draft edits for the church to consider. After reading the draft edits, please share your feedback and suggestions with the task force. Please complete the following survey and be as specific as possible with your comments. You can also complete the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/8PMDXQM. More information on the process can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/8PMDXQM. More information on the process can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/8PMDXQM. Lengthier comments or suggestions that do not fit the survey format can be sent by email to Reconsiderations@elca.org. Thank you for your time and participation!

The draft edits available for public comment are related to the following authorization from the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

"To authorize a social statement reconsideration to revise *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (2009) so that its wording reflects current church understanding, church policy, civil law, and public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender non-conforming couples in accordance with 'Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns' (2018). While references would be reviewed throughout the whole statement, the following sections are designated for reconsideration as described here: [reference may be found at www.elca.org/socialstatements]

- 'Marriage: shelter and context for trust' p. 15. This would not reconsider the idea of marriage as shelter and context for trust but would consider the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between two individuals;
- 'Lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships' p. 18f. Revision here would not change this church's current understanding that recognizes four identified positions of bound conscience within its life. p. 19, but would review wording about 'publicly accountable, lifelong monogamous same-sex relationships' in light of public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples;
- 'Loving families: ground and source for social trust' p. 21f. Review here would consider references to diversity of family configurations; and

To authorize the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Church Council to approve the parameters and expense budget of this process and identify the revenue source(s) to provide for this revision to be considered as early as the 2025 Churchwide Assembly."

"Marriage: Shelter and Context for Trust"

1. In this section, how well did the edits strengthen or clarify the existing text in light of the authorization?

1-not at all	2	3-somewhat	4	5-very	Don't know
0	0	0	0	0	0

۷.	well do the draft edits reflect current church understanding, church policy, civil law, and public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender non-conforming couples, including the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between two individuals?						
	1-not at all	2	3-somewhat	4	5-very	Don't know	
	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	Ο	
3.	· ·	-	c edits in this sections? (Please reference	•			
		ow well dic	nder Relationships" I the edits strengthe	n or clarify t	he existing tex	t in relation to	
	1-not at all	2	3-somewhat	4	5-very	Don't know	
	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	
5.		•	c edits in this section? (Please reference	•		•	
			rce for Social Trust" I the edits strengthe		he evisting tev	t in relation to	
0.	the authorization		Title calls strengthe	ii oi ciailiy i	THE CAISTING TEX	t iii relation to	
	1-not at all	2	3-somewhat	4	5-very	Don't know	
	Ο	0	Ο	0	O	Ο	
7.			c edits in this section? (Please reference			_	

Overall Question about the Edits

8.	(Optional) Do you have any additional comments about the edits in relation to the authorizations? (Please reference a line number if possible for each suggestion.)					
<u>Quest</u>	ions about You as a Participa	<u>nt</u>				
9.	Gender:					
	O Woman					
	O Man					
	O Non-binary					
	O Other					
	O Prefer not to answer					
10). Do you identify as transgend	der?				
	O Yes					
	O No					
	O Prefer not to answer					
11	•	describes you? (You may select more than one.)				
	O Asexual O Bisexual	O Pansexual				
	O Gay	O Queer O Other				
	O Heterosexual or straight	O Prefer not to answer				
	O Lesbian	o i foldi flot to allower				
12	Age:					
	O under 18	O 45-54				
	O 18-24	O 55-64				
	O 25-34	O 65-74				
	O 35-44 O Prefer not to answer	O 75 or older				
	O Prefer flot to answer					
13	8. Please select the option tha	t best describes you. (You may select more than one.)				
	O African American, Africar					
	O African National or Africa					
	O Alaska Native, American	Indian, First Nation or Indigenous				
	O Arab or Middle Eastern	- -				
	O Asian					
	O Latino, Latina or Latinx					

O Native Hawaiian
O Pacific Islander
O White
O Other:
O Prefer not to answer
14. What is your zip code?
15. Highest level of academic achievement:
O Less than high school
O High school or GED
O Skilled trade certificate
O Some college
O Associate's degree
O Bachelor's degree
O Master's degree
O Doctorate or professional degree
O Prefer not to answer
16. Role in the ELCA:
O Rostered minister
O Layperson
O Retired rostered minister
O In candidacy
O Other:

Thank you for completing the survey!

Please mail it to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Attn: ELCA Task Force on Human Sexuality 8765 W Higgins Rd Chicago IL 60631-4101

