

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, the ELCA adopted a social statement regarding human sexuality at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. This, together with the related changes in ministry policies, has led to significant unrest among the congregations of our synod. Some members have expressed concern about the decision and how it will affect the ministry of the Southeastern Synod and its congregations. Some have even threatened to withhold their mission support or to withdraw entirely from the ELCA.

We of the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO) Assembly and on behalf of its members, affirm that we are actively involved. Just as adults in our congregations and this synod do not agree on the decision of Churchwide Assembly, the youth are also not in total agreement. We talk, we discuss, and we don't all agree.

However, we do agree that we can and should remain together as brothers and sisters of the ELCA. As the present and future leaders of the ELCA, we encourage you to live "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3). We know that these are difficult and often troubling times, but it is important that we stay together as Our Lord, Jesus Christ asks us to do.

In Peace, Love, and Harmony,

Participants of the 2010 Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Assembly