

## Survey results of LOL members pertaining to the ELCA Social Statement: Human Sexuality; Gift and Trust

Membership was surveyed by mail (all households), and also by completion of surveys at worship on February 7, 10, 14, and 17. In addition, a basket in the office was available for drop-off surveys. There are 918 confirmed members. A total of 242 surveys were received, approximately 26% of the total membership.

Members were asked to indicate their feeling at the present time, using the same categories as used by Bishop Narum during his presentation at Lord of Life in November 2009. These categories were as follows:

(#1) You are in complete agreement with the change in policy; you have waited for this change and are celebrating it.

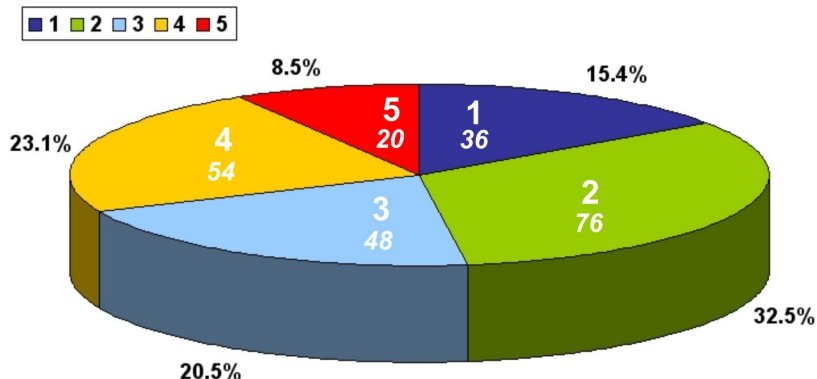
(#2) You are happy with the change, but at the same time, are concerned, knowing there are people you care deeply about who are struggling because they are deeply opposed to the change.

(#3) You are struggling with the issue. One minute you think it is a good change, the next minute you think it is a bad change.

(#4) You think this is a bad decision.

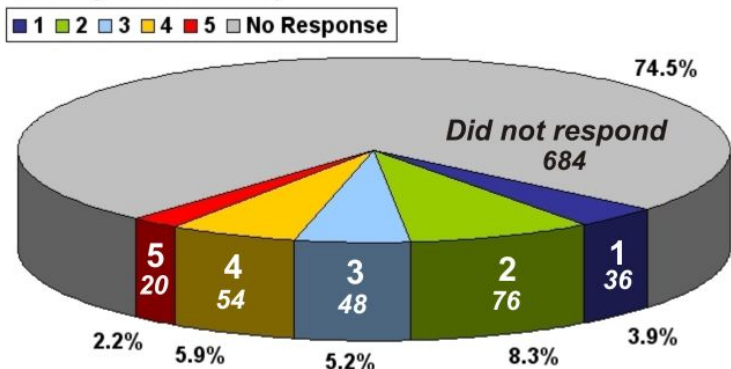
(#5) You are angry about the decision or are grieving the decision that was made.

Survey Results  
Percentages of Respondents



The pie chart above shows how these 242 surveys were completed. Each “slice” is labeled with the “feeling” category (1 through 5), and below that, the number of persons indicating that feeling. The Lord of Life task force notes that the categories did not include a neutral position, only an “uncertain” position (#3). The task force also feels that these results likely reflect reasonably well the sentiments of Lord of Life members that cared to share their opinion, especially those who worshipped during the two-week survey period or who read the special mailing sent directly to their homes. Though surveys were handed out to members as they left the sanctuary after worship, some persons declined to participate. The primary reasons given for non-participation were that these members had no strong feelings on the issue and/or didn’t want to take the time, or that, though the survey was anonymous, they did not care to share their feelings. A second pie chart, below, shows the same results but in the context of the entire membership. Some additional perspective can be gained in noting that the 242 responses received, though only about one-quarter of the membership, reflect the feelings of more than double the number of members that typically attend Lord of Life annual meetings. Care should be taken in extrapolating the results of this initial survey to the whole membership.

Survey Results  
Percentage of Full Membership



In addition to canvassing feelings regarding the ELCA statement on sexuality, the survey also solicited input as to what actions the task force should take to facilitate dialog and discussion within our church family, and offered respondents an opportunity to comment if they chose.

The task force also sought input on the need for: (a) a presentation of the ELCA social statement-Human Sexuality; Gift and Trust, (b) Bible studies, (c) a presentation/speaker on the subject of diversity, and a presentation on the impact this issue could have on Lord of Life. Of those responding, 83 persons agreed that a presentation on the ELCA statement itself would be helpful. Bible studies are thought desirable by 66 persons; the task force agrees and plans two sessions, one each on the scriptural basis for each viewpoint. Ninety-two members think a presentation on diversity would be helpful. Over half of all respondents (126) indicated that they would like a presentation on the impact this issue could have at Lord of Life. All of these are being planned; the first, a presentation on the ELCA statement itself by Beth Anderson of the Synod staff, was held on Sunday, February 21. Beth’s presentation was taped and will be made available for review in the near future. Two Bible studies on the subject are in the planning stages. The first will likely take place sometime in March, and the second has been scheduled for May 2. A presentation on diversity is scheduled to be made at Lord of Life by Pr. Wyvetta Bullock following services and a potluck on April 18. The task force members thank everyone for their input so far!