

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

- Add your voice to a groundbreaking endeavor!
- Offer your vision for the Church.
- Tell us your hopes and dreams for the Church, the Sierra Pacific Synod and the ELCA.
- What issues do you think will shape the future of the Church?
- Learn more about the important issues that face our Church and our Synod.

THE SYNOD PROFILE

Now is the time to be a part of something that has never been done before. The Synod Profile has been sent to your congregation and it is also available online at:

<http://spsprofile.wordpress.com>. After listening to many voices, the Synod Profile Team heard 13 major themes and we now present them to you for your consideration. The themes below represent the synthesis of many conversations around our Synod about the current and future direction of our Synod and about the leader we seek in our next bishop.

- **Bishop's Ecclesiastical Duties**
- **Call Process**
- **Caring for the Pastors**
- **Communication**
- **Diversity**
- **Finances**
- **Geography**
- **Healthy, Multiplying Congregations**
- **Identity**
- **Leadership Development**
- **Sexuality**
- **Staffing of the Bishop's Office**
- **Synod Structure**

HOW DO I JOIN THE CONVERSATION?

Included with the Synod Profile are congregational discussion questions designed to assist your congregation in joining the conversation being held around our Synod. A power point presentation is included as well. Among the questions, you will find questions like these:

- What communication from the Synod might be helpful to you as a congregation and as individual members of the Synod?
- What do our Lutheran theology and a Reformation mentality mean in 2008?
- If your congregation were entering a call process, what would you need and expect from staff?
- From the perspective of your geography, what specific changes might be made to the Synod structure to address the challenges of our large geographic size?
- How could the bishop and Synod staff best help you to engage in meaningful evangelism and outreach?
- What do you think should be the priorities for allocating the financial resources of the Synod?

THANK YOU

It is the Synod Profile Team's hope that every congregation will gather for discussion and offer their input and vision for the Synod before the bishop's election. Watch too, for conference gatherings in your area. These conversations will be especially helpful for voting members to the Synod Assembly in the spring.

Everyone who has been a part of this process has found it to be a rich and surprising blessing. Thank you for adding your voice to this groundbreaking conversation. God bless the ministry of your congregation, of this Synod, and of Christ's Church.

In Christ's service,
The Members of the Synod Profile Team