

## LIFT - Living into the Future Together

*Assembly panel to discuss the future of the ELCA*

By Katie Livingood with information from [www.ELCA.org/lift](http://www.ELCA.org/lift)

### **What?**

The ELCA Church Council has commissioned a task force - Living into the Future Together (LIFT) - to develop and recommend options for the future of the ELCA in light of its identity, changes in its environment and its call to God's mission. It is important to note that this study covers all expressions of the church, not just the churchwide office.

The work of the task force is guided by two questions:

1. What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future?
2. What changes are in order to accomplish these tasks more faithfully?

### **Who?**

The key component of the work of this task force is participation by members from throughout the ELCA. During the spring of 2010, the task force will seek input from groups such as ELCA college and university presidents, the ELCA Conference of Bishops, the ELCA Church Council, synod assemblies, and members and professional leaders throughout the church. A survey is available online for individual members. The survey is at [www.liftelca.org/get-involved](http://www.liftelca.org/get-involved) and can be completed online or submitted by e-mail, fax, or mail. On the same page is a survey for groups. Any group of ELCA members is encouraged to discuss the questions and submit their collective responses.

### **Why?**

In the more than twenty years that the ELCA has been in existence, much has changed in our society. This study will evaluate the organization of and relationships in the church in light of those changes. The task force will produce a report and recommendations based on their findings to help position the ELCA to best participate in God's mission in the years to come.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson told the task force, "You are here to deepen our process of being engaged in evangelical, missional imagination." He asked the task force to describe what "a vibrant, vital Evangelical Lutheran Church engaged in mission" should look like in today's global, digital world.

### **When?**

Members and groups are invited to submit their responses any time during summer 2010, preferably by mid-June.

The 2010 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly will provide an opportunity to engage in a larger conversation on Friday, May 8, 6:45 p.m. Join Bishop Usgaard, ELCA Vice president Carlos Peña, Luther College president Dr. Richard Torgerson, and Louise Hemstead, an ELCA Church Council member in conversation about what the future ministry of the ELCA.



### **Get it Online**

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