

Let's Talk

Communication and collaboration are the keys to moving forward on the topic of human sexuality.

When people used to ask me why I married my husband, I would rattle off a long list of attributes that I thought made him a great catch, not the least of which were his intelligence, his deep faith, his love of children and desire to be a father, and those rugged good looks. And somewhere in that list was "... and he's a good communicator."

Over the past 10 years, however, "he's a good communicator" has worked its way into the top three. You might say I've gained a genuine appreciation for this quality, a quality that has likely meant the difference between having long-standing marital disputes and living in relative family harmony. Because if you can talk with your partner, you can move toward mutual understanding and perhaps even agreement (or, at the very least, compromise), no matter how emotional or heated the debate.

This is the reason my heart sings every time I get one of your letters to the editor—yes, even the ones that criticize me. It's a sign that you're engaged, you're invested, and you're passionate enough about your faith to join in the dialogue that will help define this church and its people and help resolve the issues that divide members.


I was excited recently to hear about an initiative from the Synod of Alberta and the Territories that invites no-holds-barred dialogue. As part of the synod's renewal efforts, Bishop Ron Mayan has asked a group of creative

church members to contribute to a blog (www.abtrenewal.wordpress.com) entitled "What if..." The contributors, all committed to building up the ELCIC, offer creative critique and, ideally, practical solutions to problems facing the synod and the greater church. They are ready to challenge sacred cows for the purpose of moving the denomination forward in Christ. Readers, in turn, can post their comments and expand the discussion.

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laboration that the church is now asking you to join in a one-of-a-kind discussion. This issue's cover story on page 11 will help you jump into a church-wide exercise addressing some of the most divisive issues facing the church today through your participation in the ELCIC human sexuality study. Developed for individual, small-group, or large-group study, the document will walk participants through important discussion points with the goal of eliciting valuable feedback and naming the true beliefs of all church members.

So the question is: Are you engaged? Are you invested? Are you passionate enough about your faith to join in the dialogue that will help define this church, its people, and its future mission? We await your response. 



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