Dear Pastor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to ask if you and the eldership would be willing review the #SilenceIsNotSpiritual statement enclosed/attached.

The rise of the recent #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements have awakened the world to the nature and extent of violence against women and girls. For too long the voices of women and girls who suffer violence have been marginalized, ignored or silenced. The global church has been slow to speak up and take action.

Until Now.

More than 150 leaders from across the world are calling upon the global faith community to stop standing by and start standing up for women and girls who experience violence. Thousands responded within hours of launching [#SilenceIsNotSpiritual](https://twitter.com/hashtag/silenceisnotspiritual). We face a defining moment as a Church. Will we shrink in fear and despair or will we join the cry of the vulnerable, echoing their voice and defending their courage?

The statement has been reviewed and signed now by almost 6000 evangelicals and allies. TIME magazine said:

*The conversation this fall around*[*sexual harassment and abuse*](http://time.com/time-person-of-the-year-2017-silence-breakers/)*has led millions of women to speak out about their experiences and begin demanding change in their industries. Now the movement has reached a new community: evangelical Christians…Within about 24 hours of the statement’s release on Wednesday, it garnered more than 3,000 signatures, including prominent Christian women like authors Jen Hatmaker and Ann Voskamp, poet Amena Brown and Lynne Hybels, co-founder of one of the country’s largest churches.*

Would you prayerfully consider reviewing the statement, signing it and using it to begin a conversation on the topic of violence against women and how our church can provide safety and protected spaces for women to tell their story of harm if they have one?

You can learn more about the statement at [www.SilenceIsNotSpiritual.org](http://www.silenceisnotspiritual.org/). I hope our Church can be on the forefront of helping to break the silence for women who have been suffering.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

***Name and Contact Information***