

## ABORTION

1. We affirm our faith in God, and in the fellowship of the church, as the work of God among us and within us and the context within which decisions about abortion should be made.
2. We affirm our shared humanity, and common need for redemption and reconciliation to God and to one another. We affirm that life is a gift from God and the stewardship of life is a sacred trust.
3. We affirm that parenthood is partnership with God in the creative processes of the universe.
4. We affirm the necessity for parents to make responsible decisions regarding the conception and nurture of their children.
5. We affirm a profound regard for the personhood of the woman in her emotional, mental, and physical health; we also affirm a profound regard and concern for the potential of the unborn fetus.
6. We affirm that there is an inadequacy in simplistic answers that regard all abortions as murder, or, on the other hand, regard abortion only as a medical procedure without moral significance.
7. We affirm the right of the woman to make her own decision regarding the continuation or termination of problem pregnancies. It is our recommendation that this decision be made with the support of family and in consultation with medical, ministerial, and professional counseling services.
8. We affirm that jurisdictional leaders need to be cognizant of competent counseling resources and available women's health care services in the areas to which our members may be referred both during the process of decision and following.

The church is aware that there are occasions which make it necessary, because of the conditions of the conception or pregnancy, to terminate a particular pregnancy. While we recognize a woman's basic right to self-determination, we are also committed to placing a high value on the preservation of life as a principle of moral behavior. In its teaching and caring ministries, the church seeks to provide premarital preparation and to nurture faithful marriage relationships. There are, however, ethical choices in which the church, while emphasizing basic Christian principles, is called to support individuals in exercising their free moral agency as they engage in responsible decision.

—*Standing High Council (January 24, 1974;  
Revised March 19, 1998)*