# PATHWAYS TO LIFE

A GUIDE FOR CHURCHES TO HELP PREGNANT AND PARENTING MOMS IN NEED

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CHANEY MULLINS
GOOLEY

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A GUIDE FOR CHURCHES TO HELP PREGNANT AND PARENTING MOMS IN NEED

Produced by **Her PLAN**

Her Pregnancy and Life Assistance Network

*The paths of righteousness will not be trodden*
*by those who have known nothing of the green pastures*
*and waters where the wearied can rest.*

– ALEXANDER MACLAREN (1826-1910)

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# PATHWAYS TO LIFE

A GUIDE FOR CHURCHES TO HELP PREGNANT AND PARENTING MOMS IN NEED

## INTRODUCTION

Within these pages you will find a practical guide. Bearing in mind your church's unique personality, cultural surroundings, and often existing ministries, this guide presents ideas and models on how to become involved, or expand your reach to serve pregnant and parenting women and families as they face difficult circumstances.

We have determined seven reasons pregnant mothers in crisis identify as to why they sought an abortion. Your church is likely involved in responding to one or more of these reasons – and you may not even realize it. We call these the seven categories of care.

Each of the seven chapters in this guide corresponds with one of the seven categories referred to above. Each chapter includes:

A **Section A, Basic, Collaborate:** Ideas on parterning with local life-affirming assistance providers to strengthen the safety net of support for pregnant and parenting moms and families in need.

B **Section B, Advanced, Provide Direct Service:** Ideas to launch your own life-affirming assistance program.

C **Section C, Educate Your Church:** Curricula, books, and articles your members, either corporately or in small groups, can use to learn more about this category.

We pray you find new or additional ways to help pregnant and parenting moms and their families in your own community.

For life together,

Jill and Chaney

# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

## JILL STANEK

**JILL** graduated from South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois, with a degree in Registered Nursing.

In 1999, while working in the Labor & Delivery Department at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois, Jill discovered babies were being aborted alive and left to die without medical care. Read more of Jill's story on page 6-11. Jill's experience was life-changing and propelled her into pro-life activism as a speaker and writer.

A member of the Susan B. Anthony List team since 2015, Jill joined Her PLAN as Community Outreach Manager in 2020.

Jill and husband Rich have three married children and 14 grandchildren – 13 boys and one princess!

## CHANEY MULLINS GOOLEY

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Chaney previously worked for the U.S. branch of the Amore Project, a theology of the body-based ministry; for Divine Mercy Care, where she helped develop a pro-life certification program for OB/GYNs; and on the board of the Healing Center International.

Chaney joined the Susan B. Anthony List in 2019 as Her PLAN's Program Manager.

Chaney and husband Patrick reside with their cat Amy.

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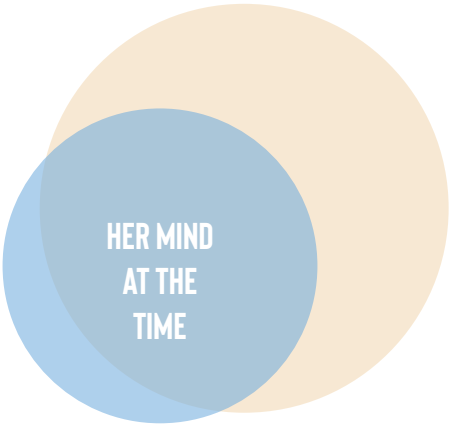
## PREMISE

*For we are God's handiwork,*
*created in Christ Jesus to do good works,*
*which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

– Ephesians 2:10, NIV

| 7 Abortion Triggers | Her PLAN's 7 Categories of Care |
| --- | --- |
| NO PLAN | MENTORSHIP |
| CONCERN FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | HEALTH AND WELL-BEING |
| CAN'T AFFORD, INTERFERES WITH EDUCATION/CAREER | FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, WORK, OR EDUCATION |
| NEEDS MATERIAL OR LEGAL HELP | MATERIAL OR LEGAL SUPPORT |
| MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, ABUSIVE SITUATION | RECOVERY AND MENTAL HEALTH |
| ANOMALY DETECTED IN UNBORN BABY | PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS SUPPORT |
| THE STRESS OF PARENTING | CARE FOR CHILDREN |

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7Reasons




## A word about the abortion stories included in this guide...

Throughout Pathways to Life you'll find personal accounts written by pregnant mothers who underwent abortions. We found most of these narratives at ShoutYourAbortion.com.

Launched in 2015, Shout Your Abortion is self-described as a "movement working to normalize abortion through art, media, and community events all over the country." Its website invites pro-abortion, post-abortive mothers to relate their abortion experiences.

SYA's goal is to paint abortion as a normal activity and heralded constitutional right, like voting or free speech.

The problem is abortion is neither and never will be.

Ironically, the very forum intended to show abortion pride instead unmasks its depravity. The stories are heart breaking, and a few are horrific. They show that most times abortion is an unwanted last resort, compelled by tragic circumstances.

We share some of these stories throughout this guide, without commentary, because pro-life commentary isn't needed to point out the pain described by abortion advocates themselves about their own experiences.

Their own words make our case.

1

# MENTORSHIP

Pregnancy Help and Case Management

## PATHWAYS

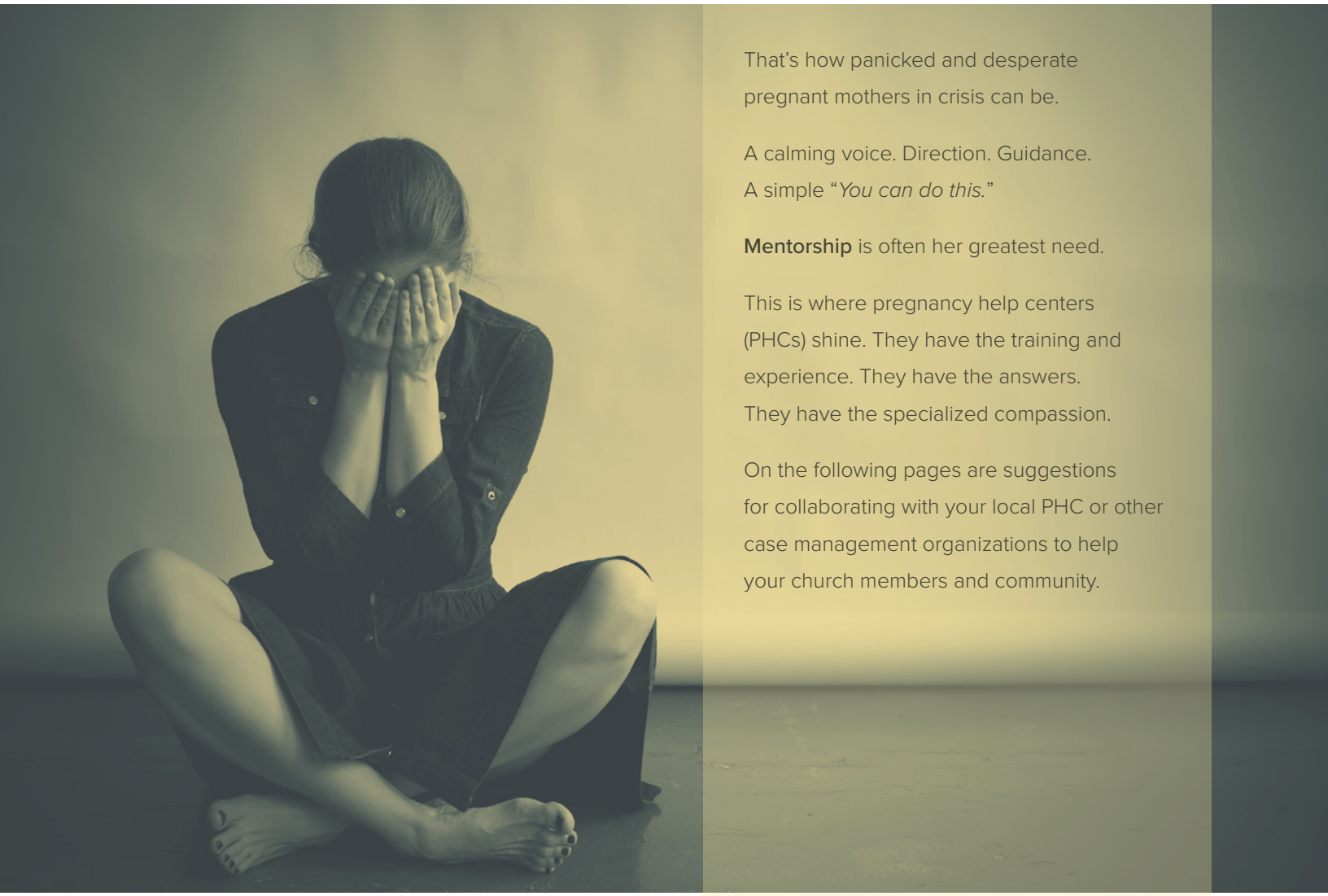
**A** Basic
**COLLABORATE**

**B** Advanced
**PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES**

**C** Ongoing
**EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION**

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

> *No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal, caught in a trap, wants to gnaw off its own leg.*
>
> – Frederica Mathewes-Green



That's how panicked and desperate pregnant mothers in crisis can be.

A calming voice. Direction. Guidance. A simple "*You can do this.*"

**Mentorship** is often her greatest need.

This is where pregnancy help centers (PHCs) shine. They have the training and experience. They have the answers. They have the specialized compassion.

On the following pages are suggestions for collaborating with your local PHC or other case management organizations to help your church members and community.

A Basic

# COLLABORATE

*Partner with assistance providers to serve pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## How collaborating will serve your church

**Pastoral confidence:** Through relationships with Her PLAN assistance providers, you and your leaders can refer pregnant congregants with confidence to experts who will provide ethical guidance.

**Resources:** Your pregnant congregants in need will have access to maternity and baby clothes, baby furniture, diapers, cribs, car seats, strollers, and more.

**Life skills:** Many pregnancy help centers (PHCs) offer classes on parenting, healthy relationships, money management, after-abortion healing, and more. These can help your pregnant congregants with inadequate support systems get proper training on fundamentals as well as break free from generational dysfunctions.

**Services to your church:** PHCs have materials and trained staff to teach risk avoidance/healthy relationships/abstinence classes to your youth group, train your congregants and leaders how to identify victims of sex trafficking, and more.

## How collaborating will serve your community

Your local PHC will rest assured knowing clients it refers to your church will receive acceptance, spiritual guidance, and help. Don't forget to invite PHC staff to church, too!

## Did You Know?

According to data from The Guttmacher Institute, 54% of women who have abortions identify themselves as Christians. Our research found that four in 10 women were regularly attending church at the time of their abortion.

– Care Net, "Abortion in the Church" makinglifedisciples.com/about

### VICTORY

*Where there is no guidance the people fail. But in an abundance of counselors there is victory.*

– Proverbs 11:14, NASB

A

## How your church can serve and collaborate with your local Pregnancy Help Center

Find U.S. PHC locations at optionline.org/center-locator or scan the QR code.

### VOLUNTEER

**Service:** Ask your PHC if congregants can fill service needs.

**Volunteer Day:** Sponsor a church volunteer day for bigger projects.

***Pro Bono*:** Encourage church members to offer free professional services to clients of life-affirming assistance providers in this category. Examples include (but not limited to):

- counseling; life coaching
- social work

**Internships:** Does your local PHC or other partners in this category offer internships? If not, ask them to consider doing so. Along with helping the provider, this will reinforce the value of life and life-affirming work to your high school and college students while satisfying service hours required by many schools. Win, win, win!

### HELPERS

*By yourself you're unprotected.*
*With a friend you can face the worst.*
*Can you round up a third?*
*A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped.*

– Ecclesiastes 4:12, The Message

### RESOURCES

**Baby shower:** Host a baby shower for your PHC.

**PRO-LIFE ACTION LEAGUE**
Theological structure: Interdenominational
prolifeaction.org/action/babyshower/
Details: Ask your nearest PHC what its needs are. Common items include diapers, baby clothes, and formula. Hold an event or collect donated items on a given Sunday.

**Diapers:** Conduct a diaper drive for your PHC.

**Spare change:** It all adds up! Easy ways for your members to give to your local PHC include taking part in a churchwide baby bottle drive or rounding up their credit card purchases. How to round up those purchases? There's an app for that!

**HERITAGE HOUSE** (buy bottles)
Theological structure: Interdenominational
hh76.org/default.aspx?GroupID=201
Details: Provide members with special baby bottles to fill with spare change and return on a designated date. Ask your PHC for bottles or purchase them yourself.

**CHOOSE LIFE MARKETING** (publicity ideas)
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1A1
Details: Find ready made baby bottle campaign promotional materials, including a video and social media graphics that can be customized for your church.

**ROUNDUP APP**
Theological structure: Secular
roundupapp.com
Details: Credit and debit card purchases are rounded up to the next dollar and donated. (Your PHC must join the network.)

A

**Gift:** Assemble "Love Boxes" to gift pregnant mothers considering abortion.

### EMBRACE GRACE

Theological structure: Interdenominational
embracegrace.com/get-support and
embracegrace.com/brave-girl-letter
Details: Assemble and drop off "love boxes" of gifts at your PHC encouraging moms to be brave and come to church for love and support. Add handwritten "Dear Brave Girl" notes of encouragement.

**Reward:** If your PHC offers incentives to pregnant moms who complete learning or coaching programs, offer to underwrite the cost of rewards (such as car seats or pack 'n plays).

### "Program Completion Plan"

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER, Springfield, MO
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1A1a

**Ultrasound:** Does your PHC need ultrasound equipment? Make it happen! Organizations partnering to purchase ultrasound machines for PHCs:

### FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1A2

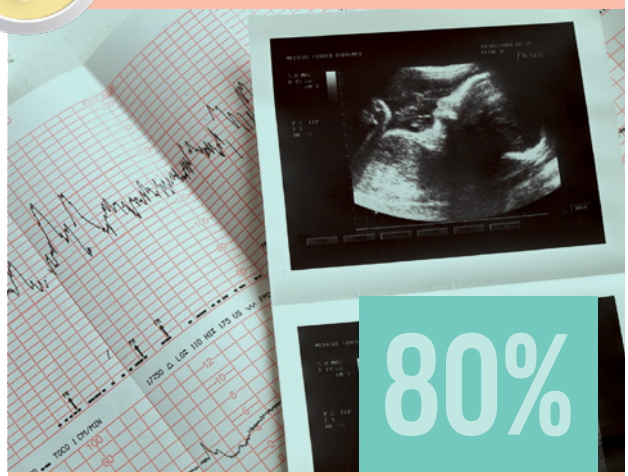
### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1A3

### PSALM 139 PROJECT

Theological structure: Southern Baptist
psalm139project.org/

## Did You Know?




According to the National Institute of Family Life Advocates (nifla.org/medical–clinic–conversion/), **80% of women at risk for abortion** decided not to abort after viewing an ultrasound of their baby's heartbeat.

**Disciple:** Partner with a Christian mentorship program for parenting teens.

### TEEN MOTHER CHOICES INTERNATIONAL

Theological structure: Interdenominational
teenmotherchoices.org/
Details: A faith-based program designed to encourage, equip, and support teen moms, ages 13 through 23, who have already given birth and who have courageously chosen to parent their children.

### WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

Theological structure: Catholic
walkingwithmoms.com/
Details: A parish-based service program dedicated to accompanying pregnant women in need by collaborating with local providers, better communicating available help, and discovering or creating new resources to fill in service gaps based on the gifts of the parish community.

B

Advanced

# PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES

*Minister to and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## No Pregnancy Help Center in your area?

**Launch your own:**

If there are no pregnancy help centers in your area, consider launching one.

**CARE NET**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
care-net.org/

**HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
heartbeatinternational.org/life-launch-grant

**NIFLA**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
nifla.org/

**COWETA PREGNANCY SERVICES**
(church-sponsored ministry example)
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1B1

### NO EXCUSES

*Rescue those unjustly sentenced to death,*
*and save those stumbling toward slaughter.*
*Don't excuse yourself by saying, "Look, we didn't know."*
*For God understands all hearts, and he sees you.*
*He who guards your soul knows you knew.*
*He will repay all people as their actions deserve.*

– Proverbs 24:11-12, NLT

## A church social worker?

**Yes!** Most child welfare programs, like children's homes, developed in churches.

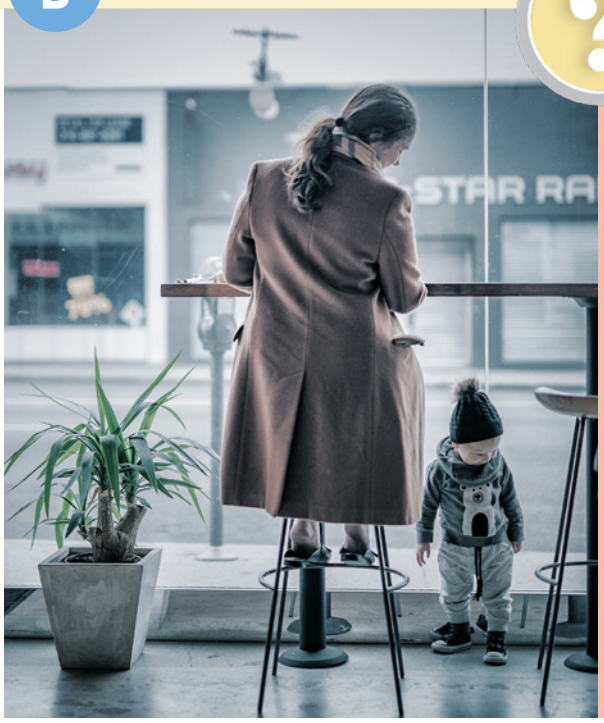
In the early part of the century, social work became professional, and congregations began to give financial support but were less involved.

Professional development within churches represents a vital component for the church to effectively increase its involvement in social efforts.

We desperately need social workers who can provide professional services and see their roles as church leaders and church representatives as they provide those services.

– Dr. Diana Garland, Professor of Social Work, "New Social Work Program to Focus on Churches," Baylor University, March 1998
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1B2

B



## Did You Know?

**Less than 1%** of the 300,000 Christian churches in the country have single parent support groups. The few that do often focus on the single moms that are already in their church.

This is a big problem in light of the fact that **only 33% of single moms attend church**. In order to grow your support group, you must focus on reaching those outside your church.

– "Starting a Single Moms Ministry"
The Life of a Single Mom
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1B3

### Offer an in-house social work or life coach ministry:

"The Church as a Context for Social Work Practice" REVIEW & EXPOSITOR, 1988
Theological structure: Baptist
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1B4

"What is a Christian Life Coach?"
AIM HIGHER (Christian certification program)
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1B5

### Join or launch a Christian witness at your nearest abortion center:

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**
Theological structure: Interdenominational
40daysforlife.com
Details: An internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful, all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. Conducted for 40 days twice annually: during Lent and in the fall.

**EQUAL RIGHTS INSTITUTE**
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1B6
Details: In its 16-lesson "Sidewalk Counseling Masterclass," ERI teaches successful methods to start conversations, offer resources, and save lives at the most critical moment.

**LOVE LIFE**
Theological structure: Interdenominational
lovelife.org
Details: Of the 700 U.S. abortion centers, only 200 have a consistent, Christian witness. Love Life provides training and assigns each participating church a week to pray for their local center. On their assigned Saturday, church members come to the abortion facility to pray and worship.

**SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE**
Theological structure: Interdenominational
sidewalkadvocates.org
Details: SAFL offers tools, training, and support to launch a peaceful, prayerful, law-abiding program to reach hearts outside the abortion facility and offer loving, life-affirming alternatives.

B

**Launch a single moms ministry:**

"FAQs About Starting a Group"
THE LIFE OF A SINGLE MOM
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1B7
Details: Provides suggestions on organizing a single moms group and making a presentation to church leadership.

EMBRACE GRACE
Theological structure: Interdenominational
embracegrace.com/get-support
Details: 12-week training and support group. Helps pregnant single mothers find a place of belonging within the church.

EMBRACE LIFE
Theological structure: Interdenominational
embracegrace.com/get-support
Details: 11-week training and support group. Single mothers make new friends, learn how to choose joy, and gain confidence to become the women and moms they dream of being.

GABRIEL PROJECT
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1B8
Details: A trained "Gabriel Angel" from within your church provides compassionate mentorship and practical advice to a woman throughout her unplanned pregnancy.

NEW START FOR SINGLE MOMS
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPlan1B9
Details: A mentor and single mom work together to explore potential, meet daily challenges, build a peaceful home, and accomplish dreams.

## Addressing two common concerns

**Won't a single mothers' ministry endorse sin or produce more single motherhood?**

No. Drug recovery programs do not endorse drug use. They simply meet people where they are. We are doing the same thing with single mothers.

Millions of single mothers live in the U.S. Do we simply ignore their existence out of fear that the ministry process could get a little messy?

Well, we could, but that is certainly not what Jesus did. He was in the midst of our messy situations. I encourage you to be too.

**We already have a very limited budget. How can we afford to start a single moms' ministry?**

The truth is you cannot afford not to have a single moms' ministry. The demographic is rapidly growing. The most successful churches (those that are both the fastest-growing and most active in saving lost souls) are the ones who think outside the box and use their God-given creativity to meet people's needs.

Single moms' ministry does not have to be complicated. In short, it's a meeting place, a casual gathering where single moms fellowship. It does not have to start huge or with any budget, really.

– Jennifer Maggio
"Single Moms – What Pastors Need to Know"
*Ministry Magazine*, March 2019
tinyurl.com/HerPlan1B10

C

Ongoing

# EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION

*Teach how to understand, minister to, and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

**"Courageously Pro-Life"**
HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1C1
Details: 12-week study using Scripture and history to help congregants understand pro-life beliefs on topics such as abortion, eugenics, euthanasia. and apologetics.

**"Making Life Disciples"**
CARE NET
Theological structure: Interdenominational
makinglifedisciples.com/about
Details: 6-week study offers practical, non-political "basic training" to equip congregants to offer compassion, hope, help, and discipleship to women and men facing pregnancy decisions. Designed to:

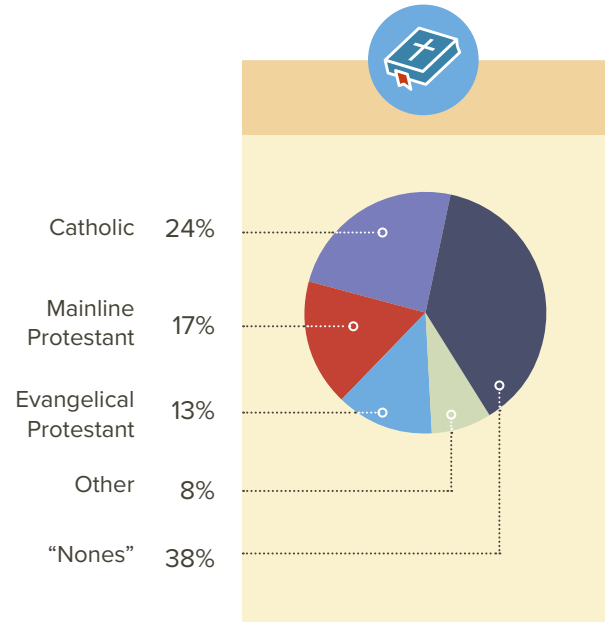
- Equip the church to watch for and reach the abortion-vulnerable in their midst
- Equip the church with sensitivity to and healing resources for the post-abortive
- Build better bridges that connect PHC clients with local church discipleship

**"Project Life"**
ANGLICANS FOR LIFE
Theological structure: Anglican
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1C2
Details: 8-week DVD series and handbook enables parishioners to be better informed and equipped to witness to the importance of every human life in God's eyes.

**"Worthy"**
LIFELINE CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Theological structure: Interdenominational
lifelinechild.org/worthy-curriculum/
Details: 12-week study on how best to minister to and love women who are unexpectedly pregnant.

## Religious Affiliation of Aborting Women

SOURCE: Guttmacher Institute, 2014



C

## SIDEWALK COUNSELORS HELP SAVE ABORTION WORKERS, TOO.

**"Re-imagining Pro-Life"**
SAVE THE STORKS
Theological structure: Interdenominational
savethestorks.com/reimagine/
Details: 30-day devotional to see and engage with those affected by abortion from the framework of love, compassion, and action.

**"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"**
U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1C3

**"What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion"**
U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1C4

**"How to Help a Friend Who Wants an Abortion"**
FOCUS ON THE FAMILY
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1C5

## Did You Know?

"I began to have serious struggles with what I was doing. It had entered a part of my spirit and sat there like an ulcer, nagging me with an unrelenting ache.

When I would go home at night, incidents of reaching for alcohol to numb me started to increase. In the drowning-out process, I would tell myself that the pain was worth it to provide for my kids....

I found myself very drawn to the presence of a woman named Mary, one of the prayer volunteers who stood with the protesters outside of our clinic, because her demeanor was so different from the rest.

Where they were mostly hostile and boisterous, she simply prayed her rosary. I approached her and asked if I could have one. "Do you know how to pray the rosary?" Mary asked.

I told her as a former Catholic, I did. When she gave me one, it seemed to start something new in me. I went from rationalizing the reasons why I worked there to a firm conviction that I was going to leave Planned Parenthood. I began going to her for prayer before every shift.

Finally, the morning came when I arrived in front of Mary with a slightly different need. "I'm only here today to say goodbye to you. I'm going to leave after this shift, and I need you to pray for me because when I walk away from here, I'm never coming back. And I don't know what I'm going to do."

She prayed with me immediately. Scared to death about my future without a job and still in shock, I surrendered everything in my life to God....Through tears and confession, I felt changed, even new. It was and is the most groundbreaking event of my life—when God called me back to Himself.

– Myra Neyer, former Planned Parenthood worker
"Abortion Industry Quitter of the Month"
And Then There Were None
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN1C6

# HER MIND AT THE TIME

**I DO NOT KNOW HOW I FELT, BEING A CHRISTIAN: BUT I KNEW I WAS OUT OF SORTS TO CARRY A PREGNANCY.**

*I had my first abortion after a year from college. I asked God for forgiveness and promised Him it would never happen again.... I was wrong!*

*I am 33, married for 6 years with two sons.*

*I found out I was pregnant [again] in December. My youngest was only 5 months, and I deliver by C section. My pregnancies are quite challenging.*

*I just could not go through the ordeal just after 5 months. I was emotionally unstable, my marriage was just not going well, I had no help at home, I knew taking care of a toddler while pregnant would be a handful.*

*I do not know how I felt, being a Christian: but I knew I was out of sorts to carry a pregnancy.*

*I went alone, I knew my husband would never approve. I had a medical abortion about 2 months ago. I was about 5 weeks pregnant. Still recovering from the emotions that come from terminating a pregnancy.*

*No one offered me much support and understanding, not even my husband. It's not a choice I made lightly this time around. I asked God to forgive me, I asked Him to understand....*

***I sometimes wonder if I had maybe been strong enough or got the support I needed, I would still be pregnant, I keep imagining it would have been a girl, but I also know I was just not ready.***

*I do not talk much about it. I pray, I know God has forgiven me, I know He is a good father who understands, knows our weakness as humans....*

*I pray and hope to carry one last pregnancy, when my son turns 2. **Praying for a girl.***

– Anonymous
ShoutYourAbortion.com

## Timely Tie-Ins

Awareness dates offer great opportunities to educate your church on life-affirming topics. They also provide openings for you to encourage member engagement with your assistance providers.

Awareness dates related to this category:

JANUARY — **SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY** (Third Sunday)
Memorializes the fateful 1973 *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision.
Resources: Life Matters, lifemattersww.org/CHURCHES/Sanctity-of-Human-Life-Sunday

**NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH**

MARCH — **NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH**

SEPTEMBER — **NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ABORTED CHILDREN** (Second Saturday)
Resources: National Day of Remembrance, nationaldayofremembrance.org

OCTOBER — **RESPECT LIFE MONTH**
Resources: USCCB, respectlife.org/respect-life-month

DECEMBER — **HOLY INNOCENTS DAY**, aka Feast of the Holy Innocents (Sunday after Christmas)
Memorializes Herod's massacre of baby boys in Bethlehem in his attempt to kill baby Jesus.

### NO EXCUSES

*Rescue the poor and helpless;*
*deliver them from the grasp of evil people.*

– Psalms 82:4, NLT

2

# HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Women's Medical Services | Support Services | General Health Services

## PATHWAYS

**A** Basic
**COLLABORATE**

**B** Advanced
**PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES**

**C** Ongoing
**EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION**

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

In its 1973 *Doe v. Bolton* decision, the companion case to *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court defined "health of the mother" so broadly that abortions can be obtained for basically any reason.

That said, serious health issues can arise during pregnancy, as described in "Her mind at the time" on this page. These deserve to be addressed, while not condoning abortion as the solution.

It is also important to ensure pregnant mothers in need obtain good prenatal care and health care.

Then, there is the "well-being" component in this category, which eye-opening research by the Vitae Foundation (vitaefoundation.org/trauma-of-abortion/) has found to be a significant hurdle to choosing life.

Vitae learned that some pregnant mothers, especially who are young and didn't plan this, think their internal selves will die if they have a baby:

> *Pregnancy and motherhood completely shatter some women's ideas of who they are and who they plan to be. In their minds, motherhood is equated with a kind of death....*
>
> ***Whether right or wrong in the abstract, under the panic of this life-changing crisis, abortion can seem to align itself with the deep and universal instinct of self-preservation....***
>
> *The pro-life tendency to focus exclusively on the child, rather than on the woman's own circumstances and emotional needs, only deepens the woman's sense of isolation and despair – the very emotions that often lead her to choose abortion.*

**"Abortion can seem to align itself with the deep and universal instinct of self-preservation."**

## HER MIND AT THE TIME

*Have you ever heard of Hyperemesis Gravidarum? It happens in 1 – 2% of pregnancies....*

*Dehydration, excessive vomiting (sometimes uncontrollable), constant nausea and dizziness, weight loss, malnutrition, sensitivity to light, sound, smell and touch, aversions to foods and water... the list goes on....*

*As I excessively vomited, unable to consume food or drink each day, I felt the weight of death on me and my unborn child. Medical interventions were failing us....*

*Would I stay for my born children, or would I go with my unborn?*

*I chose abortion. I chose life.*

– Ja'Nai
ShoutYourAbortion.com

A Basic

# COLLABORATE

*Partner with assistance providers to serve pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## How collaborating will serve your church:

**Pastoral confidence:** Through relationships with Her PLAN assistance providers, you and your leaders will know they are recommending health providers who have been thoroughly vetted as life-affirming and holistic. Then, once a mother chooses life, the continuum of life-affirming health and prenatal care will ensure better outcomes for both mom and baby.

**Resources:** Your leaders will have a deep well of resources to draw from on a variety of health and well-being needs facing pregnant and parenting mothers in your church and community.

**Services to your church:** A healthier flock! Many health providers offer classes and support groups on healthy pregnancy, birth planning, successful breastfeeding, post-partum depression, and natural fertility planning.

### TO YOUR HEALTH

*On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'"*

– Matthew 9:12-13a, NIV

## Did You Know?

A pregnancy without prenatal care is a dangerous pregnancy, even if the mother has no known health conditions or pre-determined pregnancy risks. For example:

- Pregnancy complications, such as gestational diabetes, miscarriage, high blood pressure, and preeclampsia
- Worsening of chronic conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, and heart problems
- Ante- and post-partum depression and other adverse mental health issues
- Negative effects on the baby, like preterm delivery or low birth weight

**Perhaps the most stunning statistic? Babies whose mothers received no prenatal care are 5x more likely to die than those whose mothers received regular prenatal care.**

– Unplanned Pregnancy
"No Prenatal Care: Consequences and Risks"
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2A1

## How collaborating will serve your community:

**Awareness:** A large number of our recommended health providers offer discounted or free services to women who are in poverty or uninsured. Women just need to know. Plus, many include a spritual dimension in their care.

## How your church can serve and collaborate with life-affirming providers:

### VOLUNTEER

**Recruit:** Recruit church members with a health care background to volunteer in their area of specialty at a local health provider in our network.

**Pray:** Consider opportunities to pray for health care providers, such as conducting a prayer walk at a facility.

**Internships:** Do your partnering assistance providers in this category offer internships? If not, ask them to consider doing so. Along with helping the provider, this will reinforce the value of life and life-affirming work to your high school and college students, while satisfying service hours required by many schools. Win, win, win!

### RESOURCES

**Equipment:** Offer to purchase needed or updated equipment and supplies. Ask if a facility has an Amazon wish list or online registry.

### SPACE

**Host:** Offer to provide a place to teach classes mentioned on the previous page. Also consider offering free childcare services or space during the class.

## Did You Know?

More than **2.2 million women** of childbearing age live in maternity care deserts (1,095 counties) that have no hospital offering obstetric care, no birth center, and no obstetric provider.

In 2017, almost **150,000** babies were born to women living in maternity care deserts.

Every year in this country, approximately 700 women die of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth and more than 50,000 women experience severe maternal morbidity, a life-threatening complication as a result of labor and delivery.

– "Nowhere to Go: Maternity Care Deserts Across the U.S." – March of Dimes, 2020 tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2A2

### PRIORITIES

*Now we that are stronger ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

– Romans 15:1, Douay-Rheims

B

Advanced

# PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES

*Minister to and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## Ideas for effective ministry to pregnant and parenting moms:

**Is your church welcoming to new and breastfeeding moms?**

"Creating a Mother-Friendly Environment for your Faith-Based Organization"
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, 2015
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2B1a

**Start a community-wide support group for post-partum depression.**

SADDLEBACK CHURCH
Theological structure: Southern Baptist
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2B2a

**Launch a ministry to promote health services and events.**

"10 Steps to Beginning a Health Ministry"
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2B3

**Work with your community to launch a charitable clinic or prenatal care center for uninsured and underserved families.**

"Start a Charitable Clinic in Your Community"
CHURCH HEALTH
Theological structure: Interdenominational
churchhealth.org/replication/

MORNING CENTER
Theological structure: Interdenominational
morningcenter.org

### COMPASSION

*But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey brought him to an inn and took care of him.*

– Luke 10:33-34, NIV

C

Ongoing

# EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION

*Teach how to understand, minister to, and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICES

Pregnant mothers may face a variety of heath challenges. Here are life-affirming responses to three of the most common.

### Ectopic pregancy

"The Management of Ectopic Pregnancy"
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER, 2013
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2C1

### Hyperemesis Gravidarum

"Immigrant Couple Chooses Life with Pro-life Help"
THE ARLINGTON CATHOLIC HERALD, 2017
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2C2

### Premature rupture of membranes

"Previable Induction of Labor for Chorioamnionitis" [i.e., infection],
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PRO-LIFE OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS, 2017
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2C3

Two more need-to-knows.

**Abortion Pill reversal:**
According to the Centers for Disease Control (tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2C3a), 40% of all abortions in 2018 were chemical abortions. Your members need to know it may not be too late to halt the process for pregnant mothers who have taken the abortion pill.

### ABORTION PILL RESCUE

HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL
Theological structure: Interdenominational
abortionpillreversal.com

"Abortion Pill Risks, Just the Facts"
abortionpillrisks.org

**Life or health of the mother:** Your members need to know how to respond to the two most common concerns, "What about the **life** or **health** of the mother?"

### "HOW TO REPLY TO 'ABORTION MAY BE NECESSARY TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER'"

LIVE ACTION
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN2C4
Details: Gain confidence in answering whether or not abortion is necessary in difficult cases with this free eBook. Learn to answer the hard questions intelligently and compassionately.

Read what thousands of medical professionals say about the need for abortion in cases of health of the mother, how the Supreme Court defines "health" and how that influences this issue, and more.

C

**Professional resources that address a range of pregnant mothers' health concerns**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PRO-LIFE OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS**
Theological structure: Secular
aaplog.org

**CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**
Theological structure: Catholic
cathmed.org

**CHRISTIAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSOCIATION**
Theological structure: Interdenominational
cmda.org

**THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER**
Theological structure: Catholic
ncbcenter.org/bioethics-resources
Resource for a variety of bioethics topics including Abortion, Beginning-of-Life Issues, and Pregnancy Complications.

## LIVING WORSHIP

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and proper worship.*

– Romans 12:1, NIV

## Timely Tie-Ins

Awareness dates offer great opportunities to educate your church on life-affirming topics. They also provide openings for you to encourage member engagement with your assistance providers.

Awareness dates related to this category:

| | |
|---|---|
| MAY | **MATERIAL SUPPORT AND WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK** (Beginning on Mother's Day) |
| AUGUST | **NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH** |
| OCTOBER | **HEALTH LITERACY MONTH** |

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, WORK, or EDUCATION

3

Financial Assistance | Work Opportunities | Education Opportunities

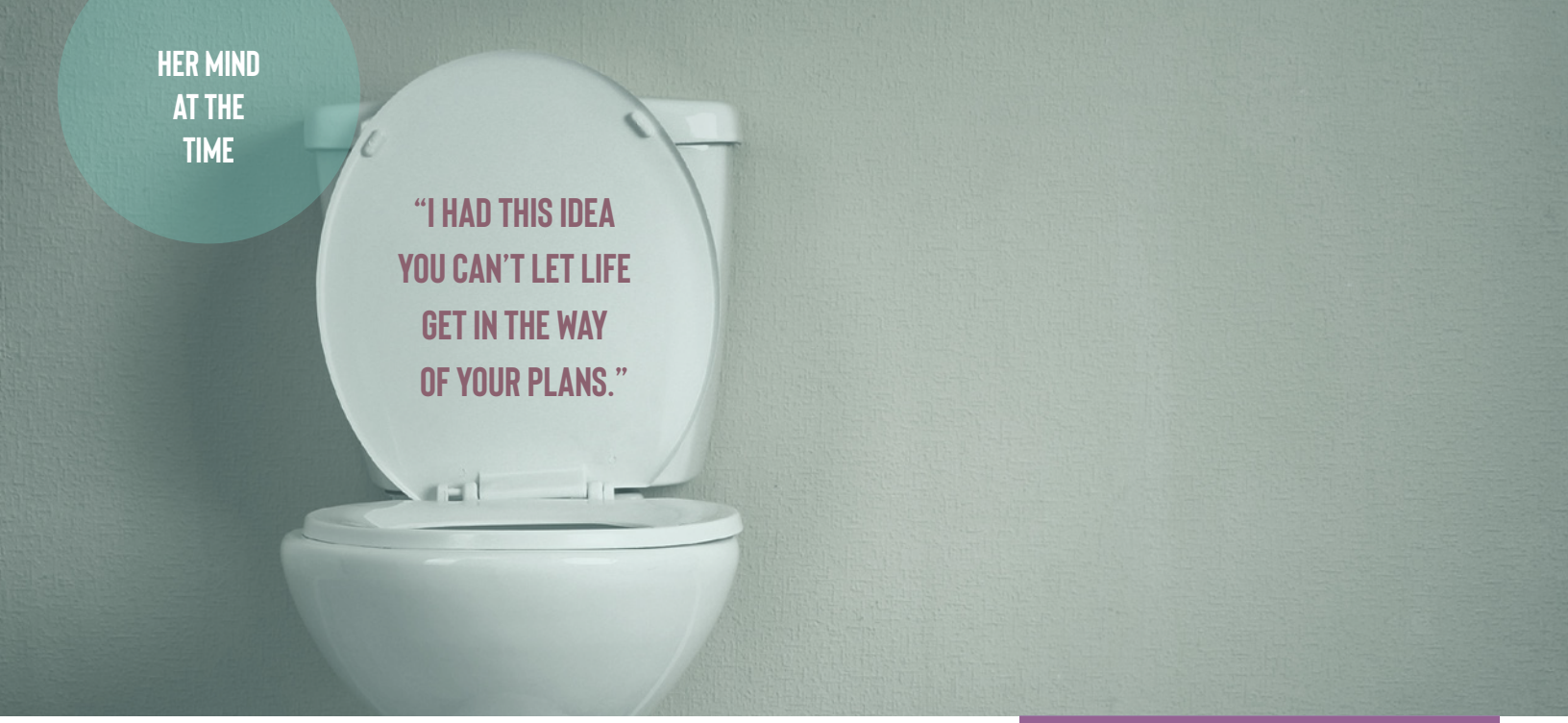
## PATHWAYS

**A** Basic
**COLLABORATE**

**B** Advanced
**PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES**

**C** Ongoing
**EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION**

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:




*The first time I was 25, in New York. From the time I was a teenager, the idea of having an abortion if pregnant was a no-brainer. I had this idea you can't let life get in the way of your plans.*

*My friend drove me. The procedure was in a tiny, bright, white room – it was like a nightmare, but it was over really, really quickly.*

*They moved me into this communal healing room. Women were reclining on big, pillowy chairs. I remember feeling comforted, warm – we'd all been through the same experience.*

*Two years ago, I was in Oklahoma. I wasn't given a choice in method – I got the pill. My boyfriend worked in Idaho – I was alone.*

*They gave me all this paperwork that said, "This is serious. You could die," and an antibiotic, painkiller, and a latex glove and a pill. At home, the antibiotic made me vomit and sh** everywhere.*

*After my contractions started, my hands turned into claws. I was dehydrated. I had this underlying feeling that I was being made to suffer, to repent for my situation....*

*I got up to pee, and this gray golf-ball thing came out.*

*I thought, so I just flush the toilet?*

Abby, 28 | New York and Oklahoma, 2010 and 2011

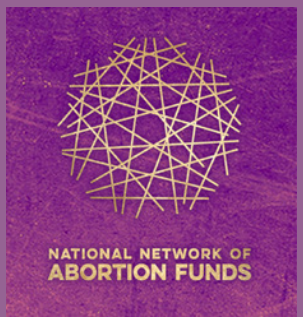
– "My Abortion," New York Magazine, 2013
nymag.com/news/features/abortion-stories-2013-11/

## Do we try as hard as they do?

"Member organizations work across our network to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access. Some of them work with clinics to help pay for your abortion. Some of them offer support such as transportation, childcare, translation, doula services, and somewhere to stay if you have to travel to get your abortion."

– National Network of Abortion Funds
abortionfunds.org/about/

NNAF has 60 U.S local funding partners working to remove obstacles to abortion, particularly financial.



A

Basic

# COLLABORATE

*Partner with assistance providers to serve pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## How collaborating will serve your church

**Pastoral confidence:** Your leaders will have resources at their fingertips to help your pregnant or parenting mothers in need. An array of life-affirming assistance providers specialize in caring for this segment of the population.

Congregants will know their church community is tangibly investing in their own people in need as well as the community around them. They will also have access to the same information (online) as their leaders to aid those in their own sphere of influence.

**Services to your church:** Life-affirming providers in this category offer educational help (scholarship applications, GEDs, English as a second language, etc.), work training (technology, resume building, professional wardrobe, etc.), life-skills training (budgeting, debt consulting, etc.), and financial help (rent, utilities, health care, etc.).

Life-affirming providers can be asked to teach a class at your church on any of the aforementioned resources.

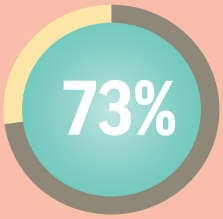
### COMPASSION

*Kindness to the poor is a loan*
*to the LORD, and He will repay the lender.*

– Proverbs 19:17, BSB

## Did You Know?

**"Can't afford a baby now"**




"Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions,"
Guttmacher Institute, 2004
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN3A1

## How collaborating will serve your community

*Christ was constantly meeting people where they were (both figuratively and iteratively), not waiting for them in the church.*

*He met the Samaritan woman at the well in Samaria. He met the tax collector Zacchaeus going through Jericho. He met the woman with the issue of blood on the way to Jairus's house. He met the dying thief on the cross....*

*The reality is that unless we can truly appreciate where others are, we cannot hope to be effective in bringing them to Christ. Whatever it takes without compromising who you are, become that for the cause of Christ.*

– Pastor James W. Goolsby, Jr.
"Whatever It Takes to Bring Them to Christ"
The Telegraph, 2017
macon.com/living/religion/article174537561.html

## How your church can serve and collaborate with life-affirming providers

### VOLUNTEER

**Service:** Encourage church members to offer professional services *pro bono* to clients of life-affirming assistance providers in our network. Examples include (but not limited to):

- education
- finance management
- professional development
- tax preparation

Church members can also offer their expertise to the assistance program itself, which may include serving on the board.

**On campus:** Contact your local Students for Life of America (SFLA) college chapter and offer to help with its "Standing with You" initiative for pregnant students. Click on your state for campuses at: standingwithyou.org/

**Internships:** Do your partnering assistance providers in this category offer internships? If not, ask them to consider doing so. Along with helping the provider, this will reinforce the value of life and life-affirming work to your high school and college students, while satisfying service hours required by many schools. Win, win, win!

### RESOURCES

- Collect supplies for SFLA's "Standing with You" initiative.
- Offer to cover expenses for a pregnant or parenting student's textbooks, school supplies, or laptop.
- Ask if a provider has an Amazon wish list or online registry.
- When planning gifts for staff or parishioners (for example, Mother's Day), consider purchasing from organizations that employ or help women in need.

#### THE REFINERY

Theological structure: Interdenominational
therefineryofbainbridge.com
Details: Employs current and former residents of a local women's shelter and donates proceeds from its candle-making enterprise back to the shelter.

### SPACE

**Host:**

- Offer space for assistance providers to meet with clients.
- Offer space for assistance providers to host classes. Also consider offering free childcare services or space for the class.

### AID AND ENCOURAGE

*If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites, in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them.*

– Deuteronomy 15:7, NIV

B

Advanced

# PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES

*Minister to and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## EMPLOYMENT

**Tech:** Launch a technology ministry to refurbish and distribute used computers to women and families for job searches, work, and school.

**WILLOW CREEK COMPUTER MINISTRY**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN3B1

**Share:** Also offer them the use of your church's wifi, office supplies, printer, copier, stapler, etc.

**Network:** Start a networking ministry for moms seeking employment.

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
cwjc.net/

**Work duds:** Launch a "career gear" ministry for moms in need seeking employment or newly hired.

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
cwjc.net/donate/clothes-closet

## EDUCATION

**High school:** Offer a scholarship to a private high school, if this would be the best fit under certain circumstances for a teen who is pregnant or a new mom.

**College:** Start a college maternity residency program if your church is located in the vicinity of a college.

**MIRAVIA**
Theological structure: Catholic
miravia.org/college-residence

**College, Trade:** Start a scholarship program for pregnant or parenting moms.

**MAMA SCHOLAR**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
mamascholar.com

## FINANCE AND BENEVOLENCE

**Manage:** Offer a financial management class (with free childcare).

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
www.daveramsey.com/fpu/about

**Mercy:** Aid pregnant and parenting mothers and families in need through a benevolence fund and church committee.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**
Theological Structure: Catholic
ssvpusa.org/programs-ways-we-help/

### GENEROSITY

*The generous will be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.*

– Proverbs 22:9, NABRE

C

Ongoing

# EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION

*Teach how to understand, minister to, and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

A shocking statistic: 67% of single moms do not attend church. This means their children most likely don't either. Both groups are in desperate need of mentorship, support, and Jesus - two fields white unto harvest.

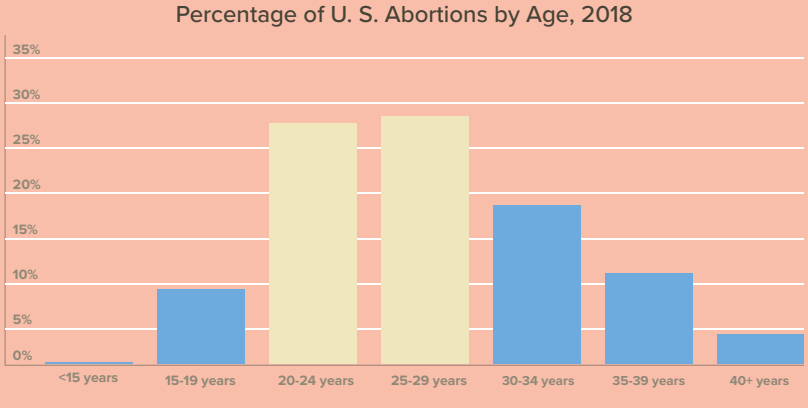
**"Why the Church Needs Single Parents, and Single Parents Need the Church"**
CHRISTIANITY TODAY, 2019
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN3C1

**"Here's Why Single Moms Don't Go to Church. So...Church? Let's Do Better Starting NOW"**
FOR EVERY MOM, 2015
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN3C2

**"The Church and the Single Mom: Why You Should Care and What You Can Do"**
JENNIFER BARNES MAGGIO, 2011
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN3C3
Details: Are you doing all you can to reach out to the hundreds of single moms in your community? If she happened into your church one Sunday morning, would she feel welcomed and loved? In this book, Maggio introduces you to the single mom and shows why we as a church are called to care for her and her children.

## Did You Know?

*The two age groups where women are biologically most fertile coincide with the age groups where women seek higher education and establish their careers - in a culture that says they can't have a baby at the same time. Hence, the highest number of abortions fall in these groups. The Church can encourage and assist her to fulfill her dreams and goals without killing her baby.*




SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control I cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/ss/ss6907a1.htm

# Timely Tie-Ins

Awareness dates offer great opportunities to educate your church on life-affirming topics. They also provide openings for you to encourage member engagement with your assistance providers.

Awareness dates related to this category:

JANUARY 6 **NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY**

APRIL 15 **TAX DAY**
Do any pregnant or parenting moms in your church need tax help?

JUNE 6 **NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION DAY**

AUGUST 14 **FINANCIAL AWARENESS DAY**

SEPTEMBER **LABOR DAY** (First Monday)

Outreachmagazine.com/features/discipleship/38423-4-principles-for-caring-for-the-poor.html

# MATERIAL or LEGAL SUPPORT

4

Transportation | Food and Nutrition | Legal Support | Clothing
Household Goods | Baby Supplies | Housing, Shelters, and Maternity Homes

## PATHWAYS

**A** Basic
**COLLABORATE**

**B** Advanced
**PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES**

**C** Ongoing
**EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION**

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

*This category covers a lot of territory.*

*Boiled down, it encompasses the two most basic tiers of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, if you remember these from your health class...*

# JUST SURVIVE

Think *survival*, and you'll better understand the desperate state in which a pregnant mother with these needs may find herself.

You'll also better understand why she might think abortion is not simply *an* option but her *only* option.

The good news is, there is help.

You as a church leader can either be that help or point the way to help through the resources in our directory.

**MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SELF ACTUALIZATION.** Achieving one's full potential, including creative activities | *Self-Fulfillment Needs* |
| **ESTEEM NEEDS.** Prestige and feeling of accomplishment | *Psychological Needs* |
| **BELONGINGNESS AND LOVE NEEDS.** Intimate relationships, friends | |
| **SAFETY NEEDS.** Security, safety | *Physical Needs* |
| **PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS.** Food, water, warmth, rest | |

A Basic

# COLLABORATE

*Partner with assistance providers to serve pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## How collaborating will serve your church

**Pastoral confidence:** As of 2018, 26.8% of families headed by single women live below the poverty level.* Your flock includes some of these human statistics, and our directory and resources will help you help them.

*SOURCE: Census Bureau, tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4A1

**Services to your church:** Do you know where to turn for legal help if a mother is about to be evicted? Or isn't receiving child support she is owed? Or needs her car repaired? Or needs her roof fixed - or even a roof over her head? We know and want you to know.

Plus, our life-affirming assistance providers host diet and nutrition classes, legal clinics, seminars on understanding government benefits, and more.

## How collaborating will serve your community

All the resources we list for your congregants are also available to your community. People just need to know.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:7 (NIV), "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Helping disadvantaged pregnant and parenting moms in your community is mercy in action.

### MERCY

*"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

– Matthew 25:37-40, NIV

A

## How your church can serve and collaborate with life-affirming providers

### VOLUNTEER

**Build:** Look for opportunities to support pregnant or parenting moms through home-building or home repair ministries, such as Habitat for Humanity.

**Internships:** Do your partnering assistance providers in this category offer internships? If not, ask them to consider doing so. Along with helping the provider, this will reinforce the value of life and life-affirming work to your high school and college students while satisfying service hours required by many schools. Win, win, win!

***Pro Bono*:** Encourage church members to offer free professional services to clients of life-affirming assistance providers in this category. Examples include (but not limited to):

- builders, electricians, plumbers
- law, law enforcement

### RESOURCES

**Feed:** Gather food staples to meet nutritional needs of pregnant and breastfeeding moms for food pantries and homeless shelters.

**PRO TIP:** *Discuss food options with your food pantry before collecting. Search "pantry staples for pregnant women" for ideas.*

**Do we look the other way because it's easier?**

"It is in many ways an affront to suggest to women, who are compelled to have an abortion out of poverty and an inability to afford childcare, that they have "chosen" their abortion....

Abortion cannot be a solution for poverty; thereby surreptitiously allowing those in authority to abdicate responsibility of tackling socio-economic inequality.

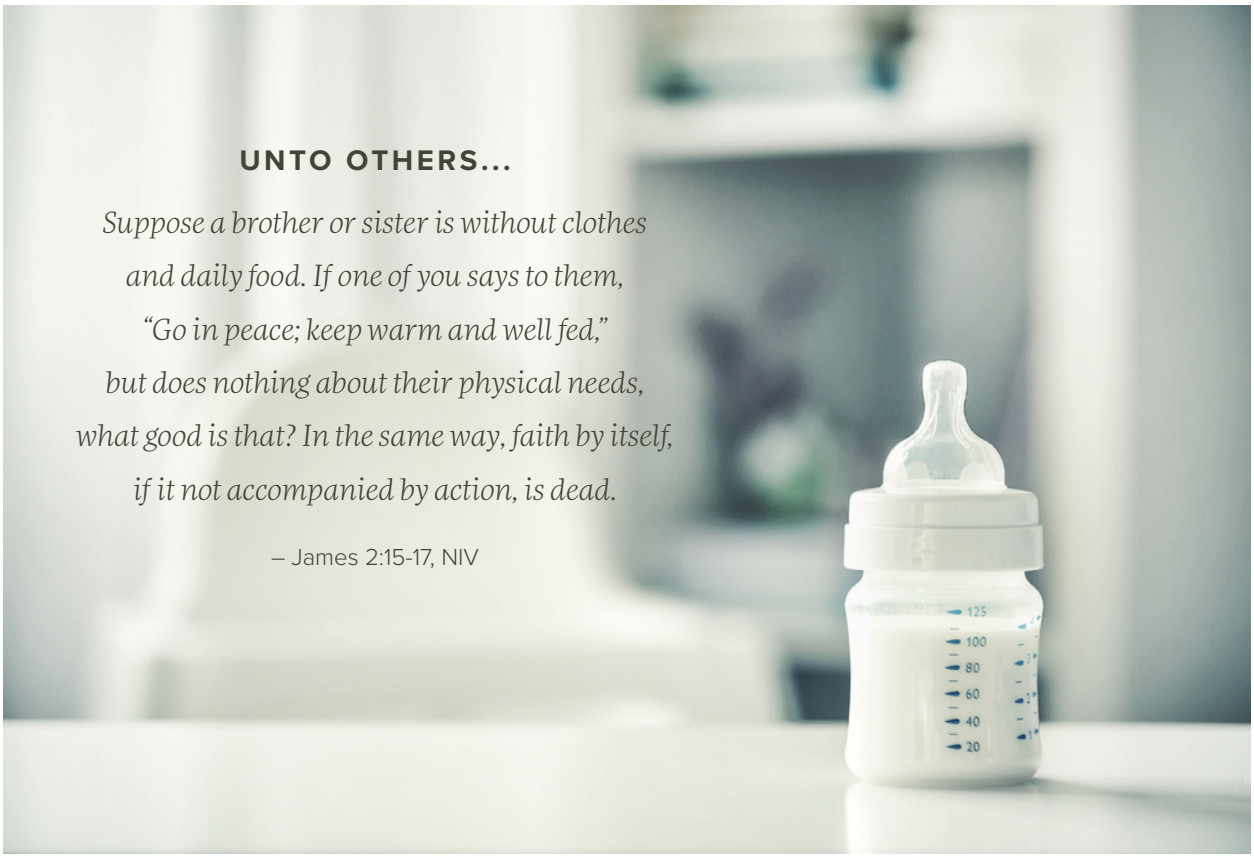
– "A Woman's Right to Choose: Five Minutes with Stella Creasy" BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 2019 bmj.com/content/367/bmj.l6424

A

**Basics:** Conduct a drive for items pregnant, breastfeeding, and new mothers commonly need, such as prenatal vitamins, maternity clothes, formula, diapers, baby toys, or baby furniture to donate to homeless shelters and pregnancy resource centers.

**Rides:** Underwrite cab or Uber fares for pregnant and parenting mothers to attend appointments with PLAN network providers.

**"Transportation Services"**
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER, Springfield, MO
Theological structure: Interdenominational
PCC's internal guidelines:
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4A2
Cab service guidelines:
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4A3
Details: Reducing the number of no-show appointments has been an ongoing goal for us. We discovered transportation issues were a common denominator. Since incepting our cab service program, we have seen our monthly no-show rate decrease from over 20% to between 11%-12%.



## HER MIND AT THE TIME

*To whoever has gone through this, I can speak for a lot of us and say that it has been one of the hardest, or the hardest decision I have made in my life. Specially after knowing he was there, he was there for 3 months and I let him go.*

*I wanted to give him the best life he could have, and right now... we can't.*

*At first I would tell my boyfriend I was scared, because it was as if we were killing him, without giving him the chance to live.*

*But what kind of life was I going to give him when I don't even have my own place? What if I couldn't pay for his clothes? What if we run out of food and now he's not getting good nutrition? What if he gets sick and I can't take him to the hospital?*

*All those things matter so so so much. It's not just about having him, it is taking care of him and giving him everything. Keeping him healthy and warm, showing him that life is beautiful. We couldn't do that at the moment.*

*So I had to go through with it.*

*The day before the appointment I couldn't sleep.*

*I kept touching my stomach, I prayed to God to forgive me for what I was going to do.*

*It was the right thing. I knew in my heart that it was. Not even for me but for him or her.*

*March 23rd, an angel was sent to heaven. One that will look after my boyfriend and I.*

*I want to say sorry for not being able to keep you. Maybe I should've been stronger or I should've just done it without looking back. But I had to let you go baby. It was the hardest thing I have ever done. My heart is broken. I think about it every day. It is something that will stick with me, something I will pray for all the time.*

*We love you, we love you*
*even though we don't have you.*

– Stephany
April 11, 2018
ShoutYourAbortion.com

Advanced

# B PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES

*Minister to and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

Launch a ministry to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting mothers and their children, and lift them out of poverty and despair while showing them the hands and feet of Jesus.

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

**Staples:** Start a church food pantry, with an emphasis on meeting the needs of pregnant and parenting moms and families.

**"FOOD PANTRY GUIDE"**
COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
cofchrist.org/food-pantry-guide

**"TIPS FOR ORGANIZING AND OPERATING A FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM"**
FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES
Theological Structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4B1a
Details: Some info is specific to this food bank but much is generically helpful.

**Nutrition:** Partner with your local hospital to host a quarterly class featuring a nutritionist who focuses on nutritional needs for mother and baby during the pregnancy and post-partum periods.

## Did You Know?

Maternal prenatal nutrition and the child's nutrition in the first 2 years of life (1,000 days) are crucial factors in a child's neurodevelopment and lifelong mental health.

Child and adult health risks, including obesity, hypertension, and diabetes, may be programmed by nutritional status during this period.

Calories are essential for growth of both fetus and child but are not sufficient for normal brain development....

Failure to provide key nutrients during this critical period of brain development may result in lifelong deficits in brain function despite subsequent nutrient repletion.

– "Advocacy for Improving Nutrition in the First 1,000 Days to Support Childhood Development and Adult Health," American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4B1

B

## CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, AND BABY SUPPLIES

### SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Theological Structure: Catholic

ssvpusa.org

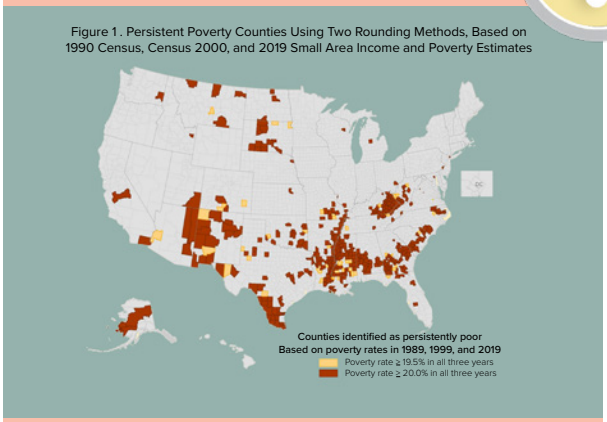
Details: Volunteers visit homes to identify needs, including emergency assistance with utilities, rent, food, and clothing. Vincentians offer disaster relief services, job training and placement, thrift stores, food pantries, housing programs, prison reentry, medical services, as well as longer-term systemic solutions that help individuals journey out of poverty and lead healthier, more productive lives.

### HOPE

*Come to me, all who labor*
*and are heavy laden,*
*and I will give you rest.*

– Matthew 11:28, ESV

## Did You Know?




Do you live, or are you near, one of the 407 U.S. counties the Congressional Research Service* has identified as in a state of persistent rural poverty? Use the QR code or link to scroll to the list and map on pp 14-26.
fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45100.pdf
Find ideas to help in our guide.

*SOURCE: Created by Congressional Research Service (CRS) using data from U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Census 2000, and 2019 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.

B

## HOUSING, SHELTER, AND MATERNITY HOMES

### Housing:

**BRIDGE OF HOPE**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
bridgeofhopeinc.org/
Details: Engages Christian faith communities in ending family homelessness through neighboring relationships.

A 12-18 month housing-focused program for single mothers and children. Along with a case manager, 6 to 10 trained volunteers from your church (small groups, etc.) walk beside each family, offering tangible and emotional support and encouragement as they engage with the family in faith and life.

### Shelter:

**FAMILY PROMISE**
Theological Structure: Secular; partners with churches
familypromise.org/
Details: Affiliates become part of a statewide network of churches that provides temporary shelter for families in crisis. Each host congregation provides lodging, three meals a day, and hospitality 3-4 times a year.

**Maternity housing:** Open a maternity home or partner with others in your community to expand maternity housing opportunities.

**"National Maternity Housing Coalition Guide"**
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4B2

**SELFLESS**

*People with*
*the heart of God*
*take responsibility*
*for brokenness*
*they did not cause*
*and bring*
*safety to those*
*they did not harm.*

– Pastor Phil Manginelli

B

# The Eight "S" Words

## OF LIFE TRANSFORMATION

Launched in 1906, Citygate Network (formerly Gospel Rescue Missions) is North America's oldest and largest community of independent, faith-based crisis shelters. Citygate's work focuses on breaking the bonds of destructive habits, bad decisions (made by or forced upon the person), and enslaving conditions. Citygate says the breadth of life transformation work can be described with eight "S" words.

citygatenetwork.org/agrm/Eight-s.asp

B

*Photo courtesy of Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, IL*

## TRANSPORTATION

Launch a car ministry.

### WILLOW CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

"C.A.R.S. Ministry Guide to Establishing an Automotive Ministry"
Theological Structure: Nondenominational
willowcreekcarecenter.org/
Details: A threefold ministry that will: 1) accept donated vehicles to resell; 2) accept donated vehicles to refurbish and give to needy families; 3) repair cars, offer oil changes.

### "Church Volunteers Provide Rides"

STAKEHOLDER HEALTH MAGAZINE
Theological Structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4B3
Details: Provide rides to church, medical appointments, job interviews, etc., to pregnant and parenting moms and children in need. "Rethinking church is something we will constantly need to be doing. We have to begin to look at folks in the community not as people we need to fix, but as people we need to lift up. To help them to feel they are valued and loved no matter what issues they're going through."

## LEGAL SUPPORT

Host a monthly legal clinic, either on-going or on a weekly or monthly basis.

### CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4B5
Details: CLA is a ministry. Often, clients' legal problems are tied to interrelated emotional, relational, and spiritual problems. So in addition to helping with the legal issues, CLA volunteers try to minister to clients holistically by providing a compassionate listening ear, spiritual counsel, and prayer.

Often clients are equally or even more blessed by the spiritual component of CLA than the legal services. Many of them come to CLA full of anger, despondency, and bitterness. They might not have friends to turn to and may never step foot in a church, but because CLA attorneys can help them with a tangible need, they are more open to sharing their lives and pouring out their hearts. CLA attorneys are there to be a witness to the love of Christ.

## Pro-Tip: Legal

We have found that women in dire straits often lack legal documents, such as birth certificates, passports, IDs, and Social Security cards for themselves and their children, and lack the skills to pull them together without guidance.

B

## LEGAL SUPPORT (continued)

**Minister to women and families at a universal point of angst:**

Launch a courthouse ministry

### BRIDGE THE GAP MINISTRIES

Theological Structure: Interdenominational

bridgethegapministries.org

Pastor David Burgher holds church at one of the most unique places you'll ever hear: Georgia's Gwinnett County Courthouse.

Pastor David providentially meets, counsels, and prays with people and families in the courthouse halls.

"The courthouse is the city gate to the whole county," explained Pastor David to us over lunch. "Everything that goes wrong in the county culminates right there."

Pastor David ticked off a list: "Child custody cases, probate, DUIs, drugs, license certificates, marriages, guns, evictions, death certificates, adoptions, divorces, and tax issues. Any major sin in the entire Bible, or major life event, goes through that building."

The legal needs of pregnant and parenting mothers in crisis include overdue child support, establishing paternity, custody battles, evictions, and restraining orders against violent partners.

*Pastor David Burgher*

I asked how Pastor David meets people.

"The most unasked and powerful question ever is: **'What is it I can pray for you now?'** This is the biggest open door," he said.

"The question denotes that you care about the person. It denotes you don't have all the answers, and you're inviting the CEO of the Universe into that conversation."

He continued, "In the courthouse it's not how much you know but how much you care."

Pastor David finds people are ready to open up "big time." He's on the phone a lot, too.

"Stopping to pray right where you are is 90% of the miracle people are looking for. God starts shifting events. This is a building of judgment, so the last thing they're expecting is mercy."

To learn more about this pioneering ministry, contact Pastor David at:
**770-601-0265,** davidburgher@comcast.net

### STAND

*Stand up for the poor and the orphan; advocate for the rights of the afflicted and those in need.*

– Psalm 82:3, The Voice

C

Ongoing

# EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION

*Teach how to understand, minister to, and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

**"Family Formation and Poverty"**
FOCUS ON THE FAMILY
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4C1a
Details: It has been well established for decades that there exists a dramatic connection between thriving, intact families and financial well-being for women and children. Here is a summary overview of the major academic contributions to this field over the last few decades and their findings.

**"Poverty and Abortion: A Vicious Cycle"**
U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4C2
Details: Some social observers once thought legalized abortion would solve this problem. If single poor women had access to abortion, they could avoid the hardships of trying to raise a child alone without resources. But after more than 40 years of legalized abortion, out-of-wedlock births have increased, and the plight of poor women has worsened.

**LISTEN...**

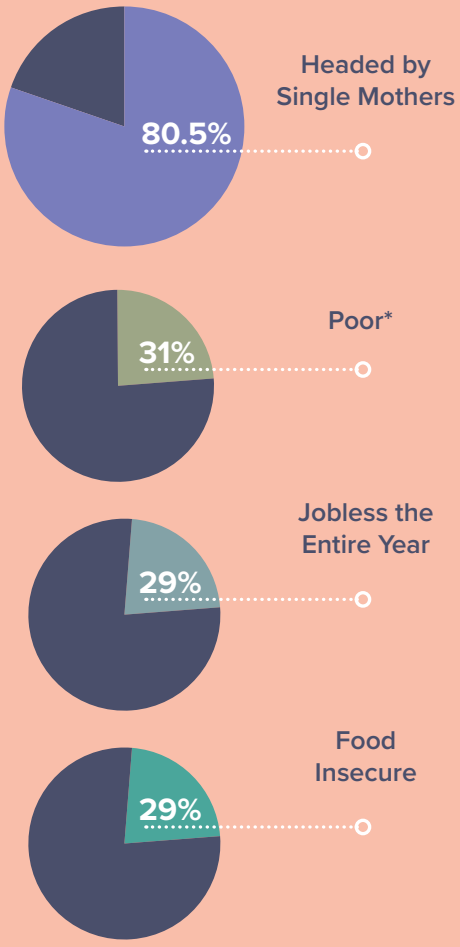
*Those who shut their ears to the cry of the poor will themselves call out and not be answered.*

– Proverbs 21:13, NABRE

## Snapshot:
## SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

Once largely limited to poor women and minorities, single motherhood is now becoming the new "norm." This prevalence is due in part to the growing trend of children born outside marriage — a societal trend that was virtually unheard of decades ago.

**10,719,000 Single Parent Families**
As of 2020




*2020 Federal Poverty Threshold: $21,720 for family of 3
SOURCE: Single Mother Guide, tinyurl.com/HerPLAN4C3

## Timely Tie-Ins

Awareness dates offer great opportunities to educate your church on life-affirming topics. They also provide openings for you to encourage member engagement with your assistance providers.

Awareness dates related to this category:

| | |
|---|---|
| JANUARY | **POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH** |
| AUGUST | **CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH** |
| SEPTEMBER | **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** |
| OCTOBER 10 | **WORLD HOMELESS DAY** |

## Did You Know?

**To avoid poverty, there are three primary requirements, in order:**

1. FINISH HIGH SCHOOL
2. GET A FULL-TIME JOB
3. MARRY BEFORE HAVING CHILDREN

– "The Success Sequence," a term coined in 2006 by historian Barbara Dafoe Whitehead and sociologist Marlene Pearson

# RECOVERY AND MENTAL HEALTH

5

Addiction or Suicide Intervention | Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault
Sex Trafficking | Counseling for Women and Families | Abortion Recovery and Healing

## PATHWAYS

**A** Basic
**COLLABORATE**

**B** Advanced
**PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES**

**C** Ongoing
**EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION**

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

*Sex trafficking.*

*Suicide.*

*Addiction.*

*Intimate partner violence.*

*Mental health disorders.*

*After-abortion regret.*

## WELCOME TO A

# LIVING HELL

The paths pregnant mothers take – or are forced to take – to land in this category of need can be horrific.

Not only is abortion violent to both baby and mother, there may also be pregnancy-related complications.

And we're not just speaking about maternal health, although it's true adverse emotional and mental health can be both a precursor to and complication of abortion.

Exploitative traffickers, pimps, and partners rely on abortion as birth control and may not take well to a pregnant mother choosing life.

The pit of hell is bottomless, and Satan continues to dig deeper, doing his utmost to degrade and annihilate we who are... the only beings God created in His own image.

We are reminded of the quote by Randy Alcorn of Eternal Perspective Ministries:

*The best of life on Earth is a glimpse of Heaven; the worst of life is a glimpse of hell.*

The tragic figures in this category are not just "glimpsing" hell. They're in it. Hell on earth. Let's partner with God and pull them out.

A Basic

# COLLABORATE

*Partner with assistance providers to serve pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## How collaborating will serve your church

**Pastoral confidence:** Leaders encountering needs in this category know the problems, while not too big for God to handle, are likely too big to handle themselves.

When ministering to a pregnant mother suffering from addiction, abuse, or a mental disorder, two lives hang in the balance. Specialized help – and sometimes specialized housing – are needed to ensure the health and safety of both mama and baby. We've done the scouting and vetting and have resources ready for you.

**Life skills:** If a pregnant mother is in bondage to a personal vice or other people, we want her to receive help and healing. The outcome is a healthier person to care for her healthier baby in a healthier way - and a healthier member of the body of Christ.

**Services to your church:** Assistance providers can lead recovery and mental health support groups for your congregants. They can also train your staff and leaders on signs to identify sex trafficking and abuse victims and women in mental distress.

## How collaborating will serve your community

This is a messy category – one where affected women may feel judged by the collective Church. "Come as you are"? Many don't believe that.

### Did You Know?

**Abortion is statistically linked** to elevated risks of suicide attempts and completed suicide, sleep disorders, addiction or misuse of drugs and/or alcohol, bi-polar disorder, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, anger or rage, difficulties parenting, increased risk of premature death, and other emotional and mental health issues.

– "Anticipating Abortion Risks to Mental Health," Elliot Institute
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5A1

Your church can be a refuge to those struggling in these areas who would normally – rightly or wrongly – feel hesitant to seek spiritual counsel.

Yours can be known as the church of compassion and acceptance, one to which your partnered assistance providers will be comfortable sending these lost souls for love and acceptance – just as they are.

**FEARS WITHIN**

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind*
*Sight, riches, healing of the mind*
*Yea, all I need, in Thee to find*
*O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

– Verse 4, "Just As I Am"
Hymn by Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

## How your church can collaborate with life-affirming providers

### VOLUNTEER

**Pamper:** Host a shopping spree, or organize your pampering professionals (hair, nails) to treat victims of sexual exploitation.

#### HOUSE OF CHERITH'S FREE FAB'RIK

Theological structure: Interdenominational
freefabrik.org/volunteer
Details: While clothes are the catalyst, the focus is on giving the ladies confidence, love, and mentorship before they head back into the 'real world.'

**Buy:** Purchase church gifts, awards, mother-daughter banquet favors, etc., made by and/or to support women in recovery.

#### EDEN HERBAL PRODUCTS

An economic empowerment program
RESTORATION 1:99
Theological structure: Interdenominational
r199.org/herbal-products-store.html
Details: Hand-crafted home, bath, and body products created by survivors of sexual trauma/trafficking.

#### SURVIVOR MADE

Theological structure: Interdenominational
sbx413.com/store/
Details: Wares handcrafted by residents of Refuge for Women, a residential facility for trafficked and sexually exploited women.

**LOVE**

*For the whole law is fulfilled in one word:*
*"You shall love your neighbor*
*as yourself."*

– Galatians 5:14, ESV

***Pro Bono*:** Encourage church members to offer free professional services to clients of life-affirming assistance providers in this category. Examples include (but not limited to):

- pastoral care
- psychology
- social work

## RESOURCES

**Heal:** Sponsor pregnant and parenting moms so they can participate in support, healing, or recovery programs.

**Reset:** Underwrite the cost of residential help.

### BEAUTY FOR ASHES WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HOME

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
beautyforashesva.org
Details: A residential program for pregnant mothers and mothers with 1-2 children up to preschool age who are struggling with addiction or other life-controlling issues.

## SPACE

**Host:**

- Invite a counselor to sublet space.
- Invite a support group or abortion recovery class to meet in your building.

## GIVE THANKS

*... comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all.*

– 1 Thessalonians 5:13-15, CSV

*I was stuck in the bottomless pit of addiction. At the time of my abortion, it was just darkness for me. I was clawing at the walls of the endless void; I was stuck trying to find a way out....*

*I was a heroin addict... and at the time was in and out of detoxes, and that's where my abortion story starts.*

## HER MIND AT THE TIME

*As part of the check-in process for every female a pregnancy test is required, and as it turns out, I was pregnant. I burst into tears because I knew what I had to do. In my mind it [abortion] was the only solution.... I didn't want a heroin baby, and I didn't want to destroy a child.*

*They gave me my first pill at the clinic. I went home to wait until I needed to take the next pill. While I waited, I talked to my stomach, to the embryo, explaining myself, telling it how sorry I was. I cried as I said I'm so sorry. I'm sorry I can't be your mother. I'm sorry I can't bring you into this world.*

*Eventually it was time to take the pills. About an hour later I felt the worst cramps I have ever felt. I ran to the toilet. I felt something hard exiting. It was the embryo. I felt horrible...an embryo that would have been a baby, an embryo that could have been a boy or a girl and had a life and children of their own and because of me was sitting at the bottom of a toilet, because I was too busy getting high to really think about better contraception.*

*I prayed over the embryo in the toilet – prayed that they would know how sorry I was. I must have sat there for over an hour. I couldn't bring myself to flush the toilet, but I eventually did. But right before I flushed it, I made the sign of the cross over the toilet (I grew up Catholic).*

*I wish I could tell you I got clean that time, but I didn't. It took some more things to happen and a few more detoxes and a rehab....*

– Anonymous, 2019
ShoutYourAbortion.com

B Advanced

# PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES

*Minister to and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## ADDICTION OR SUICIDE

**Restore:** Offer a recovery ministry.

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
celebraterecovery.com
Details: A Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain, or addictions of any kind.

### MERCY MULTIPLIED

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
mercymultiplied.com
Details: No-cost residential program for young women ages 13-32 to break free from life-controlling issues and situations, including sexual abuse, addictions, unplanned pregnancy, and sex trafficking. A sister program, Keys to Freedom (mercymultiplied.com/keys-to-freedom-study/), is an 8-week nonresidential course.

### RE:GENERATION

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
regenerationrecovery.org
Details: 12-step biblical discipleship program to walk participants through the recovery process: offers freedom from substance abuse, emotional/physical abuse, depression, fear, and other personal struggles.

## Did You Know?

More than 50% of pregnant women take prescription or nonprescription (over-the-counter) drugs or use social drugs (such as tobacco and alcohol) or illicit drugs at some time during pregnancy, and use of drugs during pregnancy is increasing.

– "Drug Use During Pregnancy"
Merck Manual Consumer Version, 2021
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5B1

### AND...LIFT

*Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.*

– Galatians 6:2-3, NLT

B

## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, SEX TRAFFICKING

**Recover:** Offer a victim abuse recovery ministry.

### ABUSE RECOVERY MINISTRY & SERVICES (ARMS)

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
abuserecovery.org
Details: 15-week in-person or virtual group abuse recovery program loosely based on Psalm 23 for women recovering from emotional, psychological, physical, spiritual, sexual, financial, and verbal abuse.

**Shelter:** Launch a faith-based shelter care facility.

### THE SAMARITAN WOMEN INSTITUTE FOR SHELTER CARE

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5B3
Details: A shelter training and mentorship program for new and existing shelters, to increase their stability and effectiveness.

**Safety:** Launch a safehouse to place victims of sexual trafficking out of harm's way.

### HOUSE OF CHERITH

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
hocatl.org
Details: A group of four Atlanta-based safehouses where women can recover from the trauma of sexual exploitation. One is specifically for trafficked, pregnant, or parenting women (and their children).

## Did You Know?

**The prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** was nearly three times greater for women seeking an abortion compared with women who were continuing their pregnancies.

A review of 74 studies confirmed IPV is even more strongly associated with repeat abortion. Findings support the concept that violence can lead to pregnancy and to subsequent termination of pregnancy, and that there may be a repetitive cycle of abuse and pregnancy.

Homicide is a leading cause of death during pregnancy. In the majority of cases, the murderer is the woman's intimate partner.

– "Abortion and Violence Against Pregnant Women," Catholics for Family Peace
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5B2

### WHERE...?

*How I wish that all of us would hear God's cry: "Where is your brother?"* (Gen 4:9)
*Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved?*
*Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day*
*in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution,*
*in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labor?*
*Let us not look the other way.*

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium,* 2013

B

## COUNSELING FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

**Guide:** Start a counseling ministry, ensuring therapists are trained in after-abortion healing.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WOODSTOCK COUNSELING

Theological Structure: Southern Baptist
fbcw.org/counseling
Details: Offers affordable, professional, Christian counseling to both the congregation and community.

**Enable:** Start a fund to counsel women and young families.

### DESIGNED 2 CONNECT

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
designed2connect.org
Details: Supports a number of Christian counselors and counseling centers by providing funding to subsidize the cost of counseling and related training for clients in financial need.

## ABORTION RECOVERY AND HEALING

**Heal:** Sponsor a program at your church. With over 200 abortion healing programs and models, here's your place to start:

### SUPPORT AFTER ABORTION

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
supportafterabortion.com
Details: A clearinghouse for abortion healing support programs, a one-stop shop to help you navigate which programs are available in your area, are most effective, and would be a good fit for your church.

*He does not treat us as our sins deserve*
*or repay us according to our iniquities.*
*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*
*so great is his love for those who fear him;*

**MERCY**

*as far as the east is from the west,*
*so far has he removed our*
*transgressions from us.*

– Psalm 103:10-12, NIV

## The unpardonable sin?

Twenty years ago, I had my abortion. The week *before* I had my abortion, I was sitting in my seat in my pew at my church. The week *after* my abortion I was sitting in my pew at my church.

For the last 20 years, I've sat in that same seat, in the same pew. Never once has there been a message in our church offering hope and healing, and as a result I assumed it must not only be the unspeakable sin, but therefore the unforgivable sin....

If you think you are doing something compassionate by not bringing this issue up, by being the priest or Levite avoiding it and just hoping it will go away, and you're helping people, you're not.

– "What Every Pastor Can Do to Prevent Abortions in Their Congregation"
Care Net blog, 2019
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5B4

C

Ongoing

# EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION

*Teach how to understand, minister to, and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## ADDICTION OR SUICIDE

**"New Study: Elevated Suicide Rates Among Mothers After Abortion"**
CHARLOTTE LOZIER INSTITUTE, 2019
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C2
Details: One-page report on study statistics outlining the shocking rate of suicide after abortion.

**"Opioid Addiction in Pregnancy"**
HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C3
Details: Online course; training to address the struggles of addiction and pregnancy together. See what treatments for addiction are commonly used for pregnant mothers and what outcomes are for the infant. Addiction treatments discussed include classes, social services, nursing, and psychiatry.

## Did You Know?

**'Well, why didn't you just run?'**– the dumbest question you can ask a survivor. Because believe me, they probably asked themselves that a million times.'

– 41-year-old Danielle from Chicago, who was forced into sex trafficking by drug dealers to pay off her incarcerated husband's $25k meth debt upon threats of harm to her three children, "She Survived Sex Trafficking. Now She Wants to Show Other Women a Way Out," *Time*, 2019

### JUST...DO IT

*Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.*
*Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.*
*You are not obligated to complete the work,*
*but neither are you free to abandon it.*

– Rabbi Tarfon, 70-135 AD

C

## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

**"Is It Abuse? A Biblical Guide to Identifying Domestic Abuse and Helping Victims"**
DARBY STRICKLAND
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C4
Details: For anyone who wants to help serve women in oppressive marriages, regardless of their level of experience. Learn how to identify the toxic entitlement that drives abusive behavior and to better understand its impact on victims – including children who are raised in a home with domestic abuse. Become equipped to provide Christ-centered counsel.

**CATHOLICS FOR FAMILY PEACE**
Theological structure: Catholic
catholicsforfamilypeace.org/
Details: Initiative provides education, resources, and research that help pastoral leaders, clergy, and parishioners recognize domestic abuse and respond with compassion.

**"The T.A.M.A.R.* Method: Ministering to Victims of Sexual Trauma"**
THE SAMARITAN WOMEN INSTITUTE FOR SHELTER CARE
Theological structure: Interdenominational
thesamaritanwomen.org/tamar/
Details: One-day course (in Baltimore or your location) to equip churches to respond to the sexually wounded with compassion and wisdom.
*Trust, Autonomy, Meaning, Action, Report/Refer

## Did You Know?

**Every 73 seconds** an American is sexually assaulted, and every 9 minutes that victim is a child.

Sexual abuse is rampant in our nation. Statistically, 30-40% of your congregation has experienced some form of sexual violence. These are deep and lasting wounds that many people carry around in suffocating silence.

– "Ministering to Victims of Sexual Trauma"
The Samaritan Women Institute for Shelter Care
thesamaritanwomen.org/tamar/

**"What About a Woman Who is Pregnant Due to Rape or Incest?"**
RANDY ALCORN,
ETERNAL PERSPECTIVES MINISTRIES
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C5

**"The Hard Cases: New Facts, New Answers"**
ELLIOT INSTITUTE
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C6

### MEDICUS

*He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.*

– Psalm 147:3, NLT

C

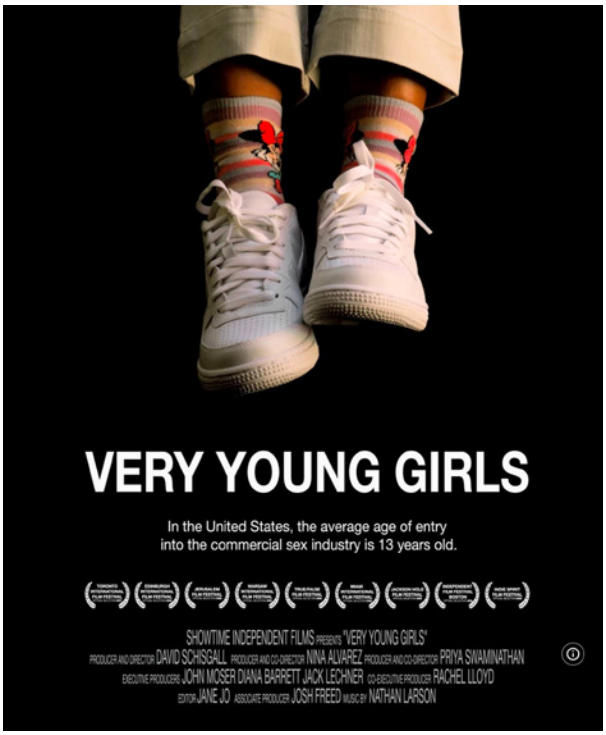
## SEX TRAFFICKING

"Human Trafficking: The Church's Response"
CHRISTIAN LEADER LEARNING
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C7a
Details: Self-guided mini course provides an overview of human trafficking and how to be involved in the fight against it.

"SHEPHERD"
U. S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Theological structure: Catholic
brycs.org/become-a-shepherd/
Details: Stop Human Trafficking and Exploitation. Protect, Help, Empower, and Restore Dignity (SHEPHERD) educates lay and religious leaders about human trafficking from a Catholic perspective, equipping them to combat forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation at the local level. Online leader guide and activities available.

**Pray:** Pray the Stations of the Cross for Victims of Human Trafficking.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Theological Structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C8




**Watch:** Host a film screening and discussion on human trafficking.

"SHEPHERD Program Movie Guide"
U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C9
Details: Select from 16 documentaries and films, including the selection advertised in the poster above, then use the discussion questions to get the conversation started.
Due to the nature of the content, these are recommended for older youth, young adult, and adult audiences.

## LIFE

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

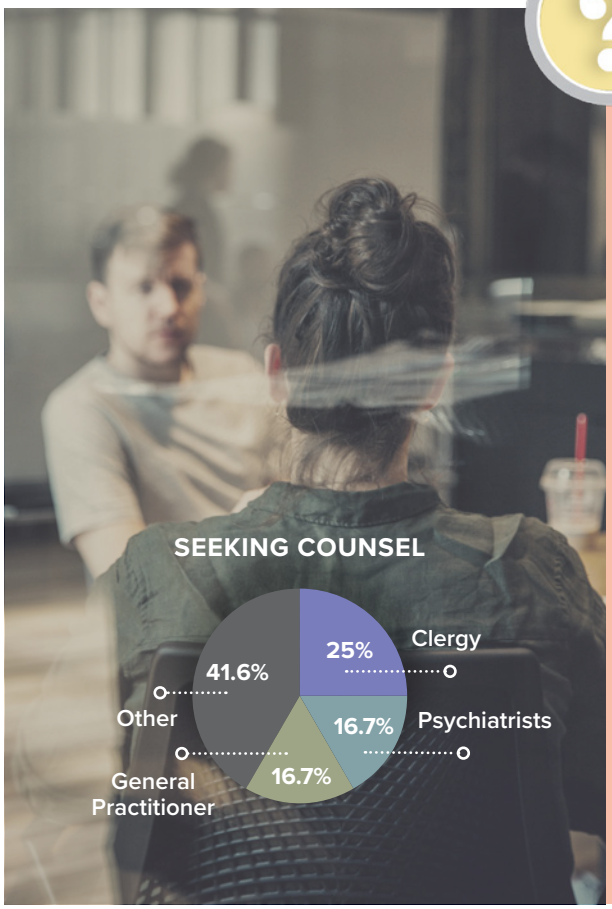
– John 10:10, NIV

## COUNSELING

**"Compassion in Action: A Guide for Faith Communities Serving People Experiencing Mental Illness and Their Caregivers"**
CENTER FOR FAITH AND OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Theological structure: Secular, with Interfaith scope
hhs.gov/sites/default/files/compassion-in-action.pdf
Details: Offers a way for leaders to address mental illness in their community and to identify the small steps they can take to put their compassion into action.

Advice, counsel, and suggested resources were distilled from three meetings with over 75 faith leaders, academics, caregivers, and mental health professionals.

The hope is for faith communities across the country to step more boldly into the work of supporting people, their families and caregivers, and communities as they cope with mental illness.




## Did You Know?

**One in four people** who seek treatment for mental disorders do so from a clergy member, and by higher proportions than from psychiatrists (16.7%) or general practitioners (16.7%).

Nearly one-quarter of those seeking help from clergy in a given year have the most seriously impairing mental disorders. The majority of these people are seen exclusively by the clergy, and not by a physician or mental health professional.

– "Patterns and Correlates of Contacting Clergy for Mental Disorders in the U.S.," National Library of Medicine, 2003
pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12785566/

C

## ABORTION RECOVERY AND HEALING

**"Clergy Counseling"**
ANGLICANS FOR LIFE
Theological structure: Anglican
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C10
Details: Every heart needs to know the forgiveness of the cross. The info in this brochure will help you meet the needs of those who regret their abortion decision. A pamphlet available to purchase, with link to free pdf.

**"Bridges of Mercy for After-Abortion Healing"**
U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C11
Details: Real-life examples illustrate how an abortion might later affect someone's life. How can we be bridges of God's mercy for people suffering after abortion? Suggestions are directed to people from all walks of life. A pamphlet available to purchase, with link to free pdf.

**"Fact or Fiction: Abortion and Women's Mental Health"**
HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C12
Details: Recent attacks on pregnancy centers have referenced claims from scientific literature that the relative risk of mental health problems following a single elective first-trimester abortion is of no greater risk to mental health than carrying that pregnancy to term.

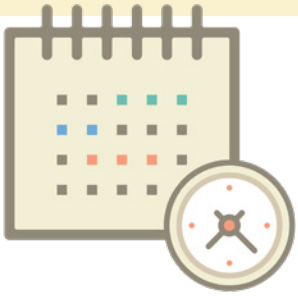
Yet, the voices of women we work with and their stories speak loudly to something completely different. How do we reconcile this? (A recorded webinar.)

**McNeal said investigators** had chastised her for seeing a spiritual adviser instead of a psychiatrist while she was suffering from depression after the abortion.

I told them, 'Oh, really? For me, growing up in the Black community, that's how we cope with everything — we go to church and we talk to our pastor or spiritual adviser,' she said....

McNeal said that as a Christian, she felt guilt about the abortion, which she underwent so she could compete in the 2020 Games. She said she was even more crushed when the Games were postponed until 2021, because the delay meant she could have had the baby after all.

SOURCE: "An Abortion, a Missed Drug Test and Altered Records Add Up to Trouble," *New York Times*, 2021, on the five-year suspension of Brianna McNeal, 2016 Olympics gold medalist in track and field, after missing a doping test and tampering with her abortion report. tinyurl.com/HerPLAN5C13



## Timely Tie-Ins

Awareness dates offer great opportunities to educate your church on life-affirming topics. They also provide openings for you to encourage member engagement with your assistance providers.

Awareness dates related to this category:

| | |
|---|---|
| JANUARY | **NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH** |
| APRIL | **ABORTION RECOVERY AWARENESS MONTH** |
| MAY | **DRUG-RELATED BIRTH DEFECTS AWARENESS WEEK** (Beginning on Mother's Day) |
| JUNE | **NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS MONTH** |
| OCTOBER | **MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK** (First full week) |

6

# PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS

Disability Support Organizations | Medical Interventions for Baby
Perinatal Hospice Resources | Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support

## PATHWAYS

**A** Basic
**COLLABORATE**

**B** Advanced
**PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES**

**C** Ongoing
**EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION**

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

*Eugenics is the selective breeding of human beings, designed to eliminate the "imperfect" from among us.*

Influenced by his cousin Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection, British scientist Francis Galton first coined the term "eugenics" in 1883, for the concept of selectively breeding humans to garner higher quality stock.

In early 20th century America, eugenics was considered a legitimate pursuit – that is, until the Nazis decimated its reputation in the 1930s and 40s.

Although the term fell from grace, the concept lived on, and in 1956, when amniocentesis was first used for genetic testing, eugenics invaded the womb. Today, it is masked by the euphemism, "a woman's choice."

What a choice. From the December 2020 *Atlantic* article, "The Last Children of Down Syndrome," (u.nu/lastchildren) by Sarah Zhang:

> *Activists have pushed back against the subtle and not-so-subtle ways the medical system encourages women to choose abortion....*
>
> *In the interviews I've conducted, and in interviews [anthropologist Stina] Lou and researchers across the U.S. have conducted, the choice of what to do after a prenatal test fell disproportionately on mothers.*
>
> *For the women in Lou's study, ending a pregnancy after a prenatal diagnosis was very different from ending an unwanted pregnancy.*

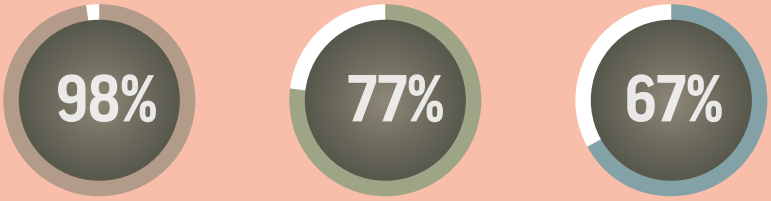
Exhibit at Kansas State Fair, 1920s

> *These were almost all wanted pregnancies, in some cases very much wanted pregnancies following long struggles with infertility. The decision to abort was not taken lightly.*
>
> *For some who end up choosing abortion, "their own self-understanding is a little shaken, because they have to accept they aren't the kind of person like they thought," [Lou] said.*
>
> *They were not the type of person who would choose to have a child with a disability.*
>
> *One woman I'll call "L" told me how terrible it was to feel her baby inside her once she'd made the decision to terminate. In the hospital bed, she began sobbing so hard, the staff had difficulty sedating her.*
>
> *The depth of her emotions surprised her, because she was so sure of her decision. The abortion was two years ago, and she doesn't think about it much anymore. But recounting it on the phone, she began crying again.*

Let's help mothers "choose" the better way.

## Did You Know?

Pregnancy terminations after a Down syndrome diagnosis




SOURCE: *Healthline*, 2018 | healthline.com/health-news/the-debate-over-terminating-down-syndrome-pregnancies

A Basic

# COLLABORATE

*Partner with assistance providers to serve pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## How collaborating will serve your church

**Pastoral confidence:** As prenatal testing expands, church leaders should anticipate the need to counsel a woman or couple who has received devastating news about their preborn baby, usually one of four life-limiting diagnoses:

- Disability
- Medical condition
- Possibly fatal or life-threatening physical condition
- Baby has died *in utero*

Unfortunately, in the first three cases many medical professionals (doctors, social workers, genetic counselors, etc.) pressure a woman to the hopeless decision to abort.

Therefore, it is important to plug her into a hope-*filled* network of assistance providers and doctors who are life-affirming during this frightening and confusing time, and who you know will offer sound guidance. This network includes perinatal hospice providers if the baby may die after birth.

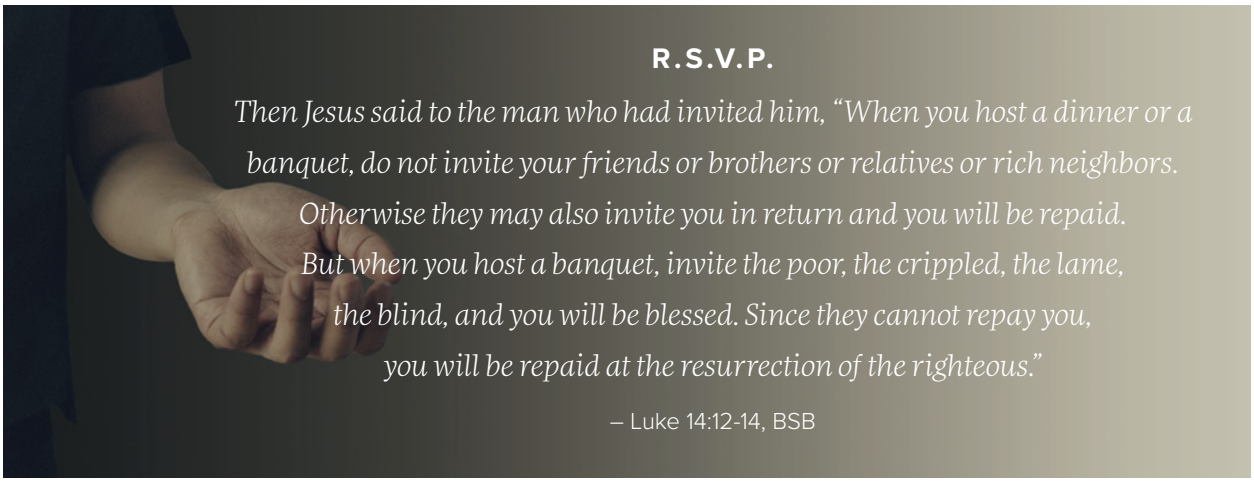
**Services to your church:** You will be armed with resources for the family as well as objective information about common maladies.

Our providers will also help your church prepare to accommodate and welcome these children into your fold.

If there is a miscarriage or loss, your church will know how best to comfort the family – what to say and do and not say and do.

## How collaborating will serve your community

Your sensitivity and planning in this category will provide you with an important outreach tool to your community. Families with children who have special needs will know they will be accepted, cared for, and loved by your church.



**R.S.V.P.**

*Then Jesus said to the man who had invited him, "When you host a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or brothers or relatives or rich neighbors. Otherwise they may also invite you in return and you will be repaid. But when you host a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Since they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

– Luke 14:12-14, BSB

## How your church can serve and collaborate with life-affirming providers

**Internships:** Do your partnering assistance providers in this category offer internships? If not, ask them to consider doing so. Along with helping the provider, this will reinforce the value of life and life-affirming work to your high school and college students while satisfying service hours required by many schools. Win, win, win!

### DISABILITY SUPPORT

**Welcome:** Ensure your church stands ready to welcome families with special needs children, and make local assistance providers aware.

#### JONI & FRIENDS

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6A1a
Details: People of all abilities need a church where they can fully belong. Let us help you identify and remove barriers that impact people with disabilities. Develop a church culture that sees all people as indispensable parts of the Body of Christ, created in God's image, and worthy of dignity and respect.

**Adapt:** Some families feel unequipped to raise a baby with special needs, so they place them for adoption. Your church might consider underwriting the cost of these adoptions. Two resources for both birth parents and adoptive parents are:

#### NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME ADOPTION NETWORK

Theological structure: Secular
ndsan.org

#### SPENCE-CHAPIN SERVICES TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Theological structure: Secular
spence-chapin.org/special-needs-adoption/

– Nick Vujicic
Founder and CEO of Life Without Limbs
nickvujicic.com

## Did You Know?

**In 2018**, little Lucas Warren from Dalton, Georgia, was chosen from over 140,000 entries as the first "Gerber baby" with Down syndrome.

– *Today*, 2018
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6A2

## DISABILITY SUPPORT (continued)

**Inform:** Resources to share with pregnant mothers who have learned their preborn babies have a life-limiting condition(s):

### BE NOT AFRAID

Theological Structure: Catholic/Interdenominational

benotafraid.net

Details: Offers peer support and/or case management to parents carrying their babies to term following an adverse diagnosis.

### CARRYING TO TERM

Theological Structure: Secular

carryingtoterm.org

Details: Provides online and print resources for both mothers and health care providers. Note: The site is "nondirective" but only presents information on the benefits of carrying an ill baby to term rather than aborting.

## Will we be surprised by who the teachers are in Heaven?

Finney was engrossed in the speaker's words.

This one had the wisdom of a thousand mentors. His face seemed almost a hybrid of a child's face and angel's face. Why was this face so familiar?

Of course, Finney thought. It was the pure delighted face of what was called on earth the Down syndrome child. This professor around whom gathered the students of heaven, some of them once professors on earth, was a Down's child, rather a man with the enduring qualities of a child. How had he obtained such wisdom and eloquence?

Finney theorized he might even be part of a unique order of being, a special strain of Adam's race. Not a genetic accident, inferior to the norm, but one challenged in some conventional senses yet in profound and invisible ways superior to the norm.

He listened as the man, this eternally young man, spoke.

"I who stand before you today, and all those of my kind, are testimonies to the truth written in still another place: 'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'"

This child had been "handicapped" in the other world. The majority, on knowing what he was, would elect to take his life before he was born, or let him die of neglect afterwards.

But here in Elyon's realm his value was so obvious it showed such thoughts to be unspeakably evil, unthinkable to the sane mind.

– Excerpt from fiction book, *Deadline*
Randy Alcorn
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6A3

## MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS FOR BABY

**Support:** Provide NICU/PICU love boxes to hospitals and/or families.

### CARMEN'S MIRACLE MAKERS

Theological structure: Secular
carmensmiraclemakers.org
Details: To inspire and equip parents of critically ill children with tools to encourage bonding and memory making while enduring a lengthy stay.

## PERINATAL HOSPICE RESOURCES

**Doula:** Underwrite the cost of training a local doula in bereavement support during labor and delivery of a life-limited baby.

### CATHOLIC BEREAVEMENT DOULA PROGRAM

Theological Structure: Catholic
catholicdoula.com/bereavement-updated.html
Details: A doula is a trained nonmedical professional who provides emotional and physical support to a mother during labor and childbirth, and a bereavement doula provides specialized care to parents experiencing the loss of their baby.

## PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS SUPPORT

**Demonstrate:** Show that your church cares, and the short life of a deceased baby, unborn or born, matters.

Deliver, or have delivered, specialized gifts for grieving mothers of lost babies, unborn and born.

### LULLABY OF HOPE

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
lullabyofhope.org
Details: Wonderfully made gift boxes for women journeying loss in the womb.

### HOPE MOMMIES BOX

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
hopemommies.org/hope-boxes
Details: Tangible gifts that express love, provide biblical truth, and invite bereaved women who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant loss into a community of fellow Hope Moms.

### MOMMIES OF AN ANGEL

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
mommiesofanangel.com/
Details: Tiny stuffed animals made to the exact weight of the lost baby.

B

Advanced

# PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES

*Minister to and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## DISABILITY SUPPORT

**Care:** Launch a special needs ministry.

### ABILITY MINISTRY

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
abilityministry.com
Details: People affected by disability desire to attend church but do at a much lower rate because of barriers that exist. Help change that. Offers curricula for children with disabilities, Bible/group studies for adults with disabilities, and resources for both as well as for caregivers.

### "Beautifully Broken: A Journey Through the Bible for Parents of Children with Special Needs"

JEN MCINTOSH
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6B1
Details: An 8-week journey through the scriptures to discuss tough topics such as brokenness, suffering, and disabilities. Searches Old and New Testaments for signs of God's hope and healing for the painful journey many parents of special needs children find themselves on. They are encouraged to dig deeper into the truths found in God's Word, challenge themselves to see their struggles in a new light, and find peace for their journey, with the confidence their child has been fearfully and wonderfully made.

## PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS SUPPORT

**Support:** Launch a support group for moms who have lost babies during pregnancy or infancy.

### YOU MADE ME MOM

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
youmadememom.com
Details: A monthly support group serving moms who have lost babies during pregnancy or infancy.

### ELIZABETH MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

Theological Structure: Catholic
elizabethministry.org/chapter-program
Details: Chapters for churches, hospitals, and community outreach groups to support women and families during the joys, challenges, and sorrows of the childbearing years.

### BIBLICAL BIOLOGY

*In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.*

– 1 Corinthians 12:22, NLT

## PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS SUPPORT
(continued)

**Honor:** Host an annual Infant Memorial Service to honor all lost babies.

"How to Plan an Infant Memorial Service"
DIVINE MERCY CARE
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6B2

**Dignity:** Start a fund or a chapter to underwrite burial or cremation costs for lost babies.

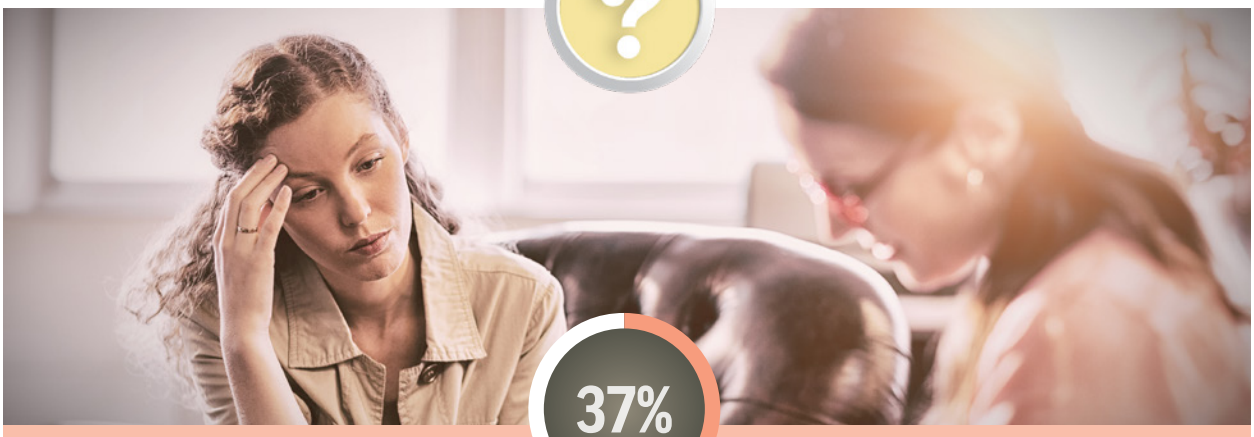
THE TEARS FOUNDATION
Theological Structure: Secular
thetearsfoundation.org
Details: Lifts a financial burden from families who have lost a child (from 20 weeks' gestation and older) by providing funds to assist with the cost of burial or cremation services and comprehensive bereavement care in the form of grief support groups and peer companions.

**Gift ideas:** Compassionate gift ideas for your craft-minded congregants.

Sew tiny burial clothes for hospitals to gift parents suffering the loss of a baby. Get ideas, volunteer, or order clothes at:

TINY TREASURES
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
teamtinytreasures.weebly.com

LOVE TO KNOW
Theological Structure: Secular
Find patterns here:
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6B4




## Did You Know?

**The percentage of time** when pregnancy continuation is discussed as an option by genetic counselors. By contrast, most do mention termination as an option.

– Carrying To Term
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6B3

## PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS SUPPORT
(continued)

**Gift ideas** (continued)**:** Build or buy baby caskets for congregants, your community, or funeral homes as a gift to grieving families.

### GARDEN OF INNOCENCE
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
Find plans and samples here: gardenofinnocence.org/casket-plans

### HEAVEN'S GAIN MINISTRIES
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
Order, or get ideas for handcrafted caskets here: heavensgain.org
Details: A dignified burial is very important to acknowledge the dignity of the baby and affirm the family's grief. We hope our beautiful caskets and urns, for miscarried or stillborn babies at any age, will assist grieving families on their journey to closure and peace. Our baby caskets and infant urns are personalized to reflect the dignity of the child.

**Comfort:** Encourage photographers in your church to provide free remembrance portraits to parents of a deceased baby.

### NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP
(also accepts volunteers)
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
nowilaymedowntosleep.org/
Details: Offers the gift of healing, hope, and honor to parents experiencing the death of a baby through the overwhelming power of remembrance portraits. Professional-level photographers volunteer their time to conduct an intimate portrait session, capturing the only moments parents spend with their babies. Parents are gifted with delicately retouched heirloom black and white portraits free of charge.

### ANGELPICS PROJECT
Theological Structure: Secular
babyangelpics.com/
Details: Will retouch remembrance photos to remove medical equipment, marks, and bruising.

Used by permission of NILMDTS

C

Ongoing

# EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION

*Teach how to understand, minister to, and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

**"Reproductive Grief Care Training"**
LIFE PERSPECTIVES
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6C1a
Details: 3-hour seminar for faith leaders who want their organizations to bring hope and healing to hurting people who may be suffering alone. Helps broaden the understanding of grief and loss after miscarriage and abortion, providing essential knowledge, skills, and empathetic listening tools. Also ideal for family and friends of people who have been impacted by reproductive loss, to help them in their healing journey.

**"Eugenomics: Eugenics and Ethics in the 21st Century"**
JULIE M. AULTMAN, Ph.D.
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6C2
Details: Overview of the origin of eugenics in the late 1800s as the foundation of today's "newgenics," given rise due to advances in reproductive and genetic engineering.

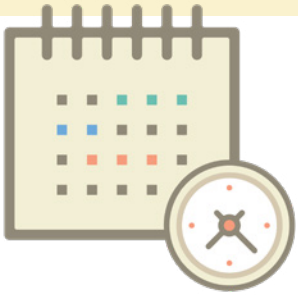
**"Pastoral Care for Parents Experiencing a Prenatal Diagnosis"**
BE NOT AFRAID
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6C3
Details: Very likely, in the course of an hour-long office visit, a normal pregnancy has been turned upside down. Parents' hopes and dreams for the future have been cast aside with news that their child is not healthy.

**"Prenatal & Postnatal Pastoral Care Resources"**
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6C4
Details: Practical supports for priests and pastoral workers supporting families following an unexpected or challenging prenatal diagnosis of disability or lethal condition.

**"Glossary of Diagnoses and Terminology"**
CARRYING TO TERM
Theological structure: Secular
carryingtoterm.org/diagnosis-glossary/
Details: Comprehensive information about congenital anomalies – written for families experiencing the emotional complexities of the diagnosis.

**"My Friend was Pressured to Have an Abortion After Scan Showed Chance of Disability"**
NORA SULLIVAN, *Daily Signal*
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6C5

**"The Perinatal Revolution"**
CHARLOTTE LOZIER INSTITUTE
Theological structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN6C6
Details: Physicians can now treat a mother's unborn child—both surgically and nonsurgically –for cerebral palsy and fetal hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism, thereby preventing long-term medical problems, and can also mitigate complications from conditions like spina bifida and cystic fibrosis.



## Timely Tie-Ins

Awareness dates offer great opportunities to educate your church on life-affirming topics. They also provide openings for you to encourage member engagement with your assistance providers.

Awareness dates related to this category:

| | |
|---|---|
| MARCH 21 | **WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY** |
| OCTOBER | **DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** |
| | **PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS AWARENESS MONTH** |
| NOVEMBER | **NATIONAL HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH** |
| NOVEMBER | **WORLD PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH** |

### BE PREPARED

*Religious leaders can be unprepared for dealing with pregnancy loss, and they may fumble because they don't know what to say. We need to be a safe place for compassion and healing. We have the capacity and heart.*

– Paul Mulligan, CEO, Catholic Charities Phoenix

## Professional Resources

**American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists**
aaplog.org

**Catholic Medical Association**
cathmed.org

**Christian Medical and Dental Association**
cmda.org

**The National Catholic Bioethics Center**
ncbcenter.org/bioethics-resources

# JILL STANEK

*"I could not bear the thought of this suffering child dying alone in a Soiled Utility Room..."*

**I am now Her PLAN's Community Outreach Manager, but I have a backstory to share.**

**The blunt words on the report were clear.** It said we were aborting a baby with Down syndrome that evening. I was completely shocked.

I had been working for a year at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois, as a registered nurse in the Labor and Delivery Department, specifically choosing to work at a Christian hospital because I expected it not to be involved in abortion. It hurt to learn the very place these abortions were being committed was named after my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I was further grieved to learn the hospital's religious affiliates were pro-abortion. I had no idea any Christian denomination could take such a position.

Compounding my distress was learning the abortion method Christ Hospital used - and still uses - is called induced labor abortion.*

The goal is to artificially induce labor and delivery of an extremely premature baby with the expectation the baby will die during the birth process or soon afterward. Some abortionists kill the baby before inducing labor by injecting her heart with a medication that causes instant cardiac arrest.

It was not uncommon for a baby to survive his or her abortion. A Christ Hospital Chaplain told the *Chicago Sun-Times*, "between 10 percent and 20 percent of fetuses with genetic defects that are aborted survive for short periods outside the womb."

By my experience the percentages were higher, and survivors could linger for an hour or two or longer. One baby lived for almost an entire eight-hour shift. Further,

some babies had no "defects," as Christ Hospital also aborted for rape, incest, and "health of the mother," a phrase the Supreme Court defined so broadly as to basically allow abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

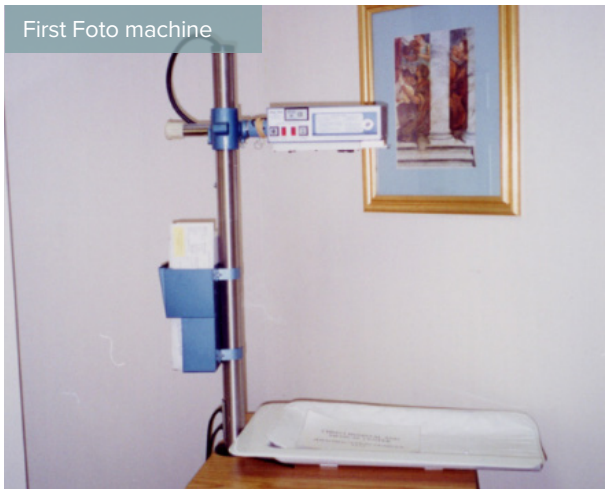
In the event an aborted baby survived, she received "comfort care," defined as keeping the baby warm in a blanket until she died. Parents held their dying baby if they wished. If not, a staff member cared for the baby.

If staff did not have the time or desire to hold the baby, she was taken to the Soiled Utility Room to die.

After this story went public, Christ Hospital created its "Comfort Room," a small nicely decorated room complete with a First Foto machine if parents wanted professional pictures of their aborted baby, baptismal supplies, gowns, certificates, foot printing equipment and baby bracelets for mementos – and a rocking chair to rock the baby to death (see photos of the Comfort Room on next page).

One night, a nursing coworker was taking a baby with Down syndrome who had survived his abortion to the

*See Appendix A, "Prenatal Development and Methods of Abortion."



First Foto machine

Soiled Utility Room, because his parents did not want to hold him, and she did not have time to hold him.

I could not bear the thought of this suffering child dying alone in a Soiled Utility Room, so I rocked him for the 45 minutes he lived. He was between 21-22 weeks old, weighed about ½ pound, and was about 10 inches long.

He was too weak to move very much, using his energy trying to breathe.

Toward the end of his life, he was so quiet I could not tell if he was alive unless I held him up to the light to see whether his heart was still beating through his thin chest wall.

Once he was pronounced dead, I folded his little arms across his chest, wrapped him in a tiny shroud, and carried him to the hospital morgue, where all our dead patients were taken.

After I held that baby, the weight of what I knew became too much to bear. I had two choices. One was to leave the hospital and work at a place that didn't commit abortions. The other was to stay and fight Christ Hospital's abortion practice.

At that point I read a Scripture I thought spoke directly to me, Proverbs 24:11-12:

> *Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die. Don't try to disclaim responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God, who knows all hearts, knows yours, and he knows you knew! And he will reward everyone according to his deeds.*

I decided that to quit at that point would be disobedient. Sure, I might be more comfortable if I left the hospital, but babies would continue to die.

I continued to work at the hospital for another two years

after eventually going public. I was finally terminated, but my life had already taken a turn into full-time pro-life activism, which included testifying 14 times to date before federal and state legislative committees.

President George W. Bush signed the Born Alive Infants Protection Act in 2002, which codified into law that abortion survivors are constitutionally protected persons.

A follow-up bill, the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would prosecute medical professionals for violating BAIPA, has yet to be signed into law.

7

# CARE FOR CHILDREN

Childcare Help | Children's Health Care | Family and Parenting Education
Adoption Services | Foster and Short-term Care

## PATHWAYS

**A** Basic
**COLLABORATE**

**B** Advanced
**PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES**

**C** Ongoing
**EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION**

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

*God has a special heart for widows and orphans.*
*In fact, His concern for them is part of His very character:*

**A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.** – Psalm 68:5, NIV

*God has much to say throughout Scripture about this concern, and He makes it our concern as well, going so far as to say caring for widows and orphans is a necessary part of our service to Him:*

**Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.** – James 1:27, NIV

*... while failing to care for them draws a curse:*

**Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow.**
– Deuteronomy 27:19, NIV

## LOVE IN ACTION

*The Bible employs many names to describe God's attributes.*

*The first use of "El Roi," which means "The God Who Sees Me," was spoken by an unmarried pregnant mother to whom God showed compassion. Her name was Hagar.*

*Hagar was slave to Sarah, the Hebrew matriarch, who was unable to conceive. Genesis 16 tells us Sarah commissioned Hagar to bear her a child by her husband and Hebrew patriarch, Abraham.*

*After Hagar became pregnant, however, her relationship with Sarah soured, and Hagar ran away into the desert.*

*But God was watching Hagar's dismal plight and reached out to her, advising her to return and making a spectacular promise to "greatly multiply your offspring so that they will be too numerous to count."*

*God's care and compassion are what evoked Hagar to proclaim him El Roi.*

*We read in Genesis 21 that Hagar again found herself in the desert, forced out of the home by Sarah, but now with born son Ishmael.*

*This time, God heard not Hagar's but Ishmael's cry after the two ran out of water, and He provided a well.*

*God cares for isolated and abandoned moms and their children, born and unborn. So should we.*

*There are many ways to support children, including health care, child care, parenting education, foster care, and adoption.*

A Basic

# COLLABORATE

*Partner with assistance providers to serve pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## How collaborating will serve your church

The most immediate and perhaps most impactful benefit to partnering with Her PLAN providers is you will enable your church family to choose pro-life obstetricians, pediatricians, and child care providers.

Other Her PLAN providers will help you inspire families in your church to provide foster care and adopt. There's no need to reinvent the wheel! We will connect you with excellent foster care and adoption ministries and programs to help your church launch and sustain your own.

Then, knowing the drop-out rate for families providing foster care is high, your church can learn through Her PLAN providers how to encourage and strengthen your foster care families by surrounding them with support.

## How collaborating will serve your community

Statistics indicate how difficult single motherhood is: 85% of aborting mothers are unmarried, and 61% already have at least one child (guttmacher.org/report/characteristics-us-abortion-patients-2008).

Caring for single mothers in your community is a clear path to saving lives. Folding these women into your church community will help them find stability for themselves and their children.

## Did You Know?

**[T]he traditional rate of retention** for a foster family beyond one year is about 50%.... However, for the families being supported by their churches, the retention rate is 90%.

– Christian Alliance for Orphans
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7A1a

### ASSURANCE

*"For I know the plans I have for you,"*
*declares the LORD,*
*"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,*
*plans to give you hope and a future."*

– Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

## How your church can serve and collaborate with life-affirming providers

### VOLUNTEER

**Babysit:** Ask your local assistance providers if they need volunteers to provide childcare and enable moms to attend a class or counseling session, etc.

**Recruit:** Encourage church members with a health care background to volunteer in their area of specialty at a local free clinic in our network.

**Encourage:** Encourage child welfare professionals in your community. Turnover for social workers is high, to the detriment of children in the system.

"How to H.E.L.P. Child Welfare Professionals in Your Community."
CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tiny.one/HerPLAN7A1
Details: Suggestions to **H**onor, **E**ncourage, **L**ove, and **P**ray for these specialists.

**Internships:** Do your partnering assistance providers in this category offer internships? If not, ask them to consider doing so. Along with helping the provider, this will reinforce the value of life and life-affirming work to your high school and college students while satisfying service hours required by many schools. Win, win, win!

### RESOURCES

**Collaborate:** Expand your local outreach by joining:

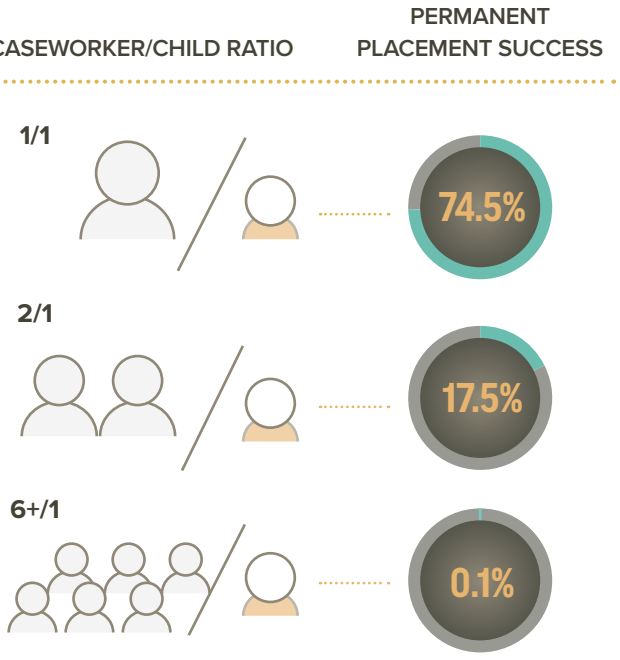
CARE PORTAL
Theological Structure: Secular; partners with churches
careportal.org
Details: A web platform that connects churches, government child welfare agencies, and other child-serving organizations to meet the needs of children in foster care in real time. Examples of needs: twin beds, car seats, meal delivery, transportation.

## Did You Know?

**One impact study** done in a local child welfare office in Milwaukee County found that children who had one consistent case worker achieved permanency 74.5% of the time.

If they had two case workers, that number dropped to 17.5%.

In cases where children had six or seven case managers, their permanency rate was 0.1%.




1) Sage, Melanie Dawn, "Child Welfare Workforce Turnover: Frontline Workers' Experiences with Organizational Culture and Climate and Implications for Organizational Practice" (2010). Dissertations and Theses. Paper 365. 2) http://www.uh.edu/socialwork/_docs/cwep/national-iv-e/turnoverstudy.pdf

A

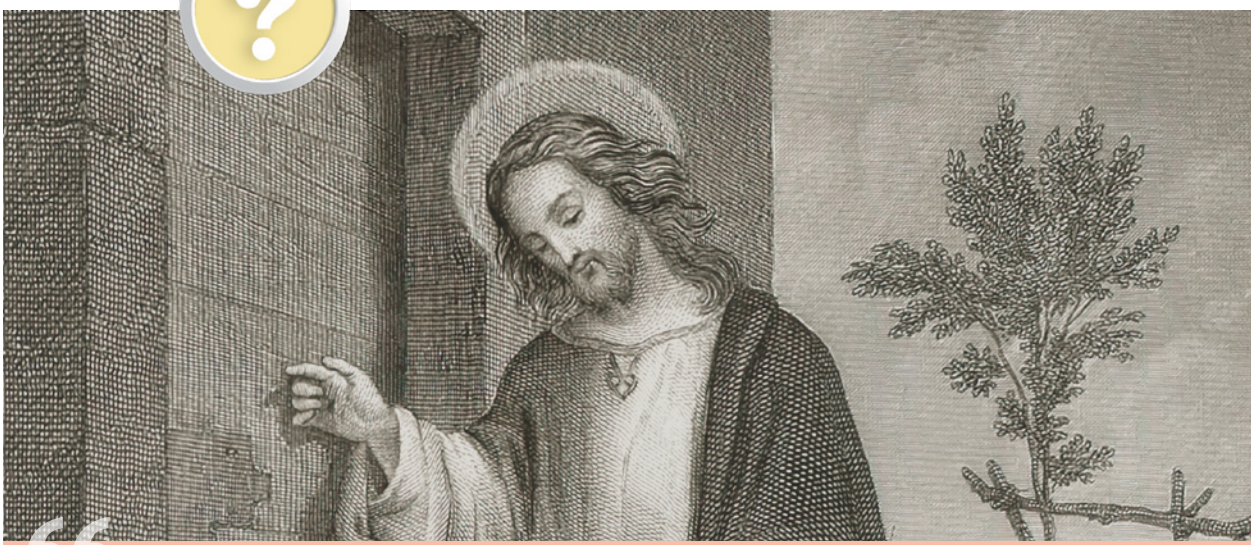
## SPACE

**Host:** Offer space (and childcare) for foster parent association support groups to meet and/or offer to serve as a location for family visitations.

**"Willing to Help, Something the Church Can Do for Foster Care"**
FOSTER FOCUS
Theological Structure: Secular
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7A2

**Double-duty:** Offer the use of your Sunday School space to a pro-life daycare provider.

**Share:** Offer space for a parenting class to meet in your building (which also acclimates nonchurched members of your community to walking through the doors of a church).



## Did You Know?

**Over 24 million children are currently in single-parent homes** (85% headed by mothers), and seven out of 10 of those children live in poverty.

It is well-documented that these children, without strong outside involvement and support, are 10-20 times more likely to suffer problems with emotional adjustments, educational failure, abuse, neglect, trafficking, homelessness, incarceration, addiction, abortion, and other issues.

Having a sustainable Christian-based single moms' group makes it four times more likely she will connect to a local church....

**Does your church really want to make a difference in our troubled society?** You can go right to the heart of it and reach the most at-risk children before it's too late.

– "Dear Church: Is There a Place for a Single Mother?"
The Wesleyan Church
Theological structure: Wesleyan
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7A3

B

Advanced

# PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES

*Minister to and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

## CHILDCARE HELP

**Alone time:** Start a "Drop-In Child Watch" service at your church.

### YMCA

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7B1a
Details: Childcare is offered for babies and children while a parent or custodian remains in the building – for remote work, school or Bible study, alone time, etc.

**Daycare:** Meet the needs of mothers and children in your community by starting a church daycare service. Also an excellent outreach tool.

### "Looking to Start a Church Daycare? Start Here"

CHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM
Theological structure: Interdenominational
childrensministry.com/starting-church-daycare/
Details: Many churches searching for the "perfect" outreach ministry may find it in the children snuggled in the arms of the people they want to reach. That's because the most important decision employed parents make is choosing who will care for their children while they work. Families need to have a place where they can feel unconditional love. They want an environment where their children's total needs are met — spiritual, physical, emotional, and academic. That's the church!

### "Church Child Care Centers: A Financially Sustainable Ministry Solution"

CHURCH EXECUTIVE
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7B2
Details: Church facilities have long been a vastly underused ministry tool, with most spaces left vacant during the week besides an occasional Bible study or evening meeting. By stewarding these unused spaces more effectively, ministries can create a sustainable income stream and an open door for introducing the Christian faith to the surrounding community.

## Did You Know?

Currently, there are approximately **500,000 children in foster care** in the U.S. It's estimated that 120,000 are eligible for adoption. With over 400,000 churches in the the U.S., **if one person in every 3rd church would say, "I'll take one," all of the children would have a home....**

Sadly, each year about 26,000 children age out of foster care WITHOUT the support, guidance, care and love of an adoptive family.

– A Child's Hope International
thechildrenarewaiting.org/adoption/fostercare/
Date accessed: June 30, 2021

## CHILDCARE HELP (continued)

If you already offer daycare services, consider offering scholarship spaces to families referred by Her PLAN assistance providers.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

See Section 2, Sub-section B, for suggestions.

## FAMILY AND PARENTING EDUCATION

**Assess:** Identify the relationship needs in your church and community to determine which ministries, classes, or study groups will have the highest impact.

### COMMUNIO

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
communio.org
Details: Through church and community assessments and insights gained from consumer product data, we help you run tailored outreach to those in your community most at risk for divorce, single parenthood, financial insolvency, and many other relationship challenges.

**Train:** Offer parenting education and training to your church members and community.

### RIGHTNOW MEDIA

Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7B2a
Details: Provides resources for single parents: Bible studies, kids' media, customized parent training media, conference sessions.

### ADOPTED...CALLED

*Orphan care equals a vast buffet of opportunities to care for the marginalized, abused, neglected and orphaned children and their families.*

*Not everyone is called to do the same thing, but certainly if you are someone who claims to have been adopted by God, you are no doubt called to do something.*

*This is a realistic expectation for us all, and a biblical one.*

– Jason Johnson,
Christian Alliance for Orphans
*The Gospel Coalition*, 2019
tiny.one/HerPLAN7B3

**Support:** Start a study/support group for adoptive and foster care parents.

### "The Connection Where Hearts Meet"

LEAD TO HEALING
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7B4
Details: 13 small group lessons designed to help adoptive and foster care parents and children build a lasting, loving connection. You will be encouraged and equipped with practical help based on biblical truths and research-based interventions specifically developed for adoptive or foster care families.

### MAP

*Point your kids in the right direction – when they're old they won't be lost.*

– Proverbs 22:6, The Message

B

## ADOPTION

**Funding:** Start an adoption fund to enable families that can't afford the expense to welcome an orphan into their home.

### LIFESONG FOR ORPHANS

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
lifesong.org/church-partnership/
Details: House your church's adoption fund with this no-cost ministry tailored to your church's needs. Lifesong vets applicants, handles administrative tasks, and helps you decide how to dispense funds (outright gifts vs. matching grants, etc.) and determine your bandwidth (just members of your own church? your local community? etc.)

### NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD ADOPTION FUND FOR MINISTERS

Theological Structure: Southern Baptist
namb.net/give/adoption-fund/
Details: A fund with the vision to "ignite a culture of adoption" in churches by enabling pastors to lead the way by example. While this fund is open only to SBC church leaders, it can serve as an inspiration to other denominations.

## ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

**Facilitate:** Start an adoptive and foster parent group.

### "Adoptive & Foster Parent Connect Group Facilitator's Guide"

LIFELINE CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7B5

Church model of a foster and adoptive family support ministry:

### "Woven"

PURCELLVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Theological Structure: Southern Baptist
purbap.org/woven
Details: Church model of a foster and adoptive family support group.

Start an adoption and/or foster care ministry.
**Suggested Partners:**

### CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS

Theological Structure: Interdenominational
cafo.org/church/
Details: Every church has the capacity to impact the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children. Including yours. No matter where you are on the journey, we're here to help. The purpose of the CAFO National Church Ministry Initiative is to equip, connect and support churches as they launch and lead effective foster care, adoption, support, and orphan care ministries.

## Did You Know?

**Here was the average cost** of a private domestic adoption in 2017:

- **Adoption Agency: $43,239**
- **Private Attorney: $37,829**

If turning your sights overseas for a new addition to your family, the average cost for three countries that tend to have a high volume of international adoptions is:

- **China: $36,441**
- **Ukraine: $35,000**
- **South Korea: $48,329**

– "Average Cost of Adoption in the U.S."
*The Balance*, 2021 | tiny.one/HerPLAN7B6

B

## ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE (continued)

Launch a "wrap-around" ministry to support foster care and adoptive parents.

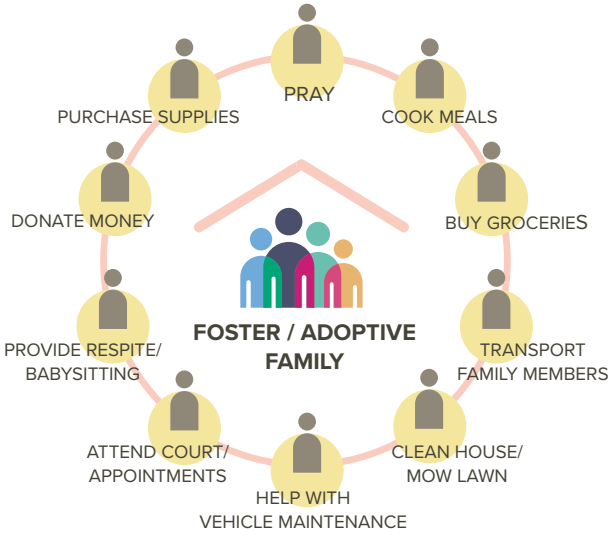
**"Forming a 'Wrap Around' Ministry"**
AMERICA'S KIDS BELONG
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7B7
Details: Launching a "Wrap Around" Ministry at your church is crucial to the support and retention of foster and adoptive families. One of the top reasons foster parents terminate their home as a placement is a lack of social support.

It is the Church's role to come alongside these families with tangible, emotional, and spiritual support – to "wrap around" foster families. Whether you are a 10-year-old who can mow a lawn to help parents spend more time with their foster children, or you are 80 years old and can bake muffins to drop on a family's doorstep for breakfast, there is a role for everyone in the Church!

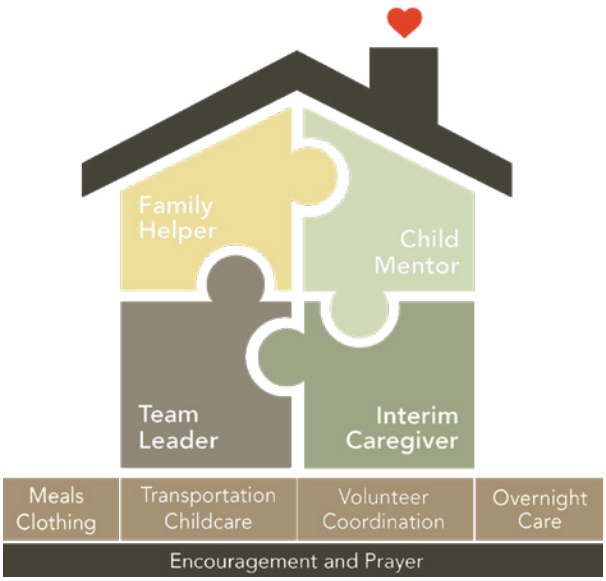
**PROMISE686 CARE COMMUNITIES**
PROMISE686
Theological Structure: Interdenominational
promise686.org/care-communities/
Details: Children in foster care, as well as adopted children, have unique needs and require intentional focus from their new parents. P686 trains churches to create and maintain volunteer-led Care Communities that provide a strong support system.

### WRAP AROUND CARE MODEL

FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES




### P686 CARE COMMUNITY




**BLESSED**

*God sets the lonely in families.*

– Psalm 68:6, NIV

## ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE (continued)

**Intercede:** Launch a residential/nonresidential program for children.

### BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Theological structure: Southern Baptist
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7B8 and
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7B9
Details:

- **Residential Program**
  Designed to meet the long-term needs of children, ages 1 through 20. Children remain in our care until they may be reunited with their families or otherwise be placed in caring family environments.

- **Non-Residential Program**
  Designed to to aid families that are near the point of collapse, helping them create homes that are safe and stable for children. Education and training are provided in areas such as child-rearing and appropriate discipline, household budgeting and shopping, meal planning and preparation, and household safety and care. Families are assisted in obtaining community services such as health care, education, and childcare.

## SHORT-TERM CARE, MATERNAL ADVOCACY

**Step in:** Offer short-term care to struggling families.

### HARBOR FAMILIES

A Ministry of Lifeline Children's Services
Theological structure: Interdenominational
lifelinechild.org/foster-care/
Details: For some families, poverty and social isolation mean they have no support when needed. Often, a straightforward problem – such as postpartum depression or unemployment – can be debilitating. Children in these situations often suffer neglect or abuse, and some are eventually placed in state custody. Our mission is to equip churches to provide a chance for parents to get back on their feet and connect with a local church for support while providing short-term care for their children.

**Avert:** Start a ministry to help mothers in crisis keep their children.

### EVERY MOTHER'S ADVOCATE

Theological structure: Interdenominational
everymothersadvocate.org/why-ema/
Details: Behind every child at risk is a mother in crisis. Unmet basic needs is the most common type of neglect in the U.S., making poverty the leading cause for removals at 65%. Nearly 350,000 children are separated from their mothers every year for reasons of poverty, inadequate housing, illness, and material need. The program is built to empower mothers to increase resilience, overcome risk factors, and achieve stability for their families.

## HER MIND AT THE TIME

*As soon as I saw the pregnancy test, I called my husband at work to tell him the great news. "I'm pregnant again!!" There was silence on the line. "We'll talk about it when I get home."*

*But when my husband came home, he had had a change of heart. He was excited, thrilled to have another child and immediately took me to an expensive dinner to celebrate, where we agreed to name the child Teagan if a girl and vowed to keep thinking of a name for a boy. I was ecstatic. I couldn't wait to be visibly pregnant again and to give birth again.*

*That was the first day after we knew. The second, third, and fourth and so on days were the exact opposite. My husband was depressed and angry, constantly low on patience with our 3yo daughter and me. He kept coming up with reasons we shouldn't have the baby: money, needing a bigger home, a larger income and more childcare.*

*He wore me down.*

*The day of the procedure I wasn't upset. I had come to terms with the necessity of our decision.*

*Within a month, my husband had left my daughter and I twice. He never came back the second time. We divorced shortly thereafter.*

*I realize now that no matter how much I wanted that pregnancy, I didn't want to be a single mother with a toddler and a newborn.*

– IMA-RN, 2018
ShoutYourAbortion.com

C

Ongoing

# EDUCATE YOUR CONGREGATION

*Teach how to understand, minister to, and disciple pregnant and parenting moms in need*

**Walk in their shoes:** Understand the needs of adoptive and foster care parents and children.

**"Equipped to Love: Caring for Foster & Adoptive Families in the Church"**
LIFELINE CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Theological structure: Interdenominational
Lifelinechild.org/equipped-to-love-resources/
Details: 6-module, 1-hour training sessions. Designed to help family and friends support adoptive and foster families in their church. Because God's people have stepped out in obedience, we have many children in our churches who come in through foster care and adoption. Often, children who have experienced neglect, abuse, and trauma have challenges and differences that can cause them not to fit well in many of our traditional church programs and settings. This training curriculum is designed to help individuals learn how to understand the needs of these families and provide them with practical support.

**Explore:** Probe foster and adoptive parenting.

**"Foster Parenting from a Biblical Worldview"**
FOSTERING HOPE, a ministry of Lifeline Children's Services
Theological structure: Interdenominational
Hub.lifelinechild.org/fosteringhope
Details: This 5-session video-based curriculum is designed to help foster families filter the secular training they have received through a biblical worldview and to stay focused on the gospel as they care for vulnerable children.

**"ALL IN Orphan Care: Exploring the Call to Care for Vulnerable Children and Families"**
CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS
Theological structure: Interdenominational
jasonjohnsonblog.com/allin
Details: 6-session study designed to help explore, prepare, and equip those who are exploring the call to foster care, adoption, or some aspect of supporting families.

### BY DESIGN

*The life of every living thing is in his hand, as well as the breath of all humanity.*

– Job 12:10, CSB

### Articles

**"Three Ways the Church Can Advocate for Birthmothers"**
SEND RELIEF
Theological structure: Southern Baptist
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7C1

**"Four Ways to Make Your Church Adoption Friendly"**
SEND RELIEF
Theological structure: Southern Baptist
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7C1a

## Articles (continued)

**"Five Myths about Foster Care"**
SEND RELIEF
Theological structure: Southern Baptist
sendrelief.org/story/5-myths-foster-care/

**"Your Church Can Do Orphan Care: 10 Simple Ways to Get Started"**
BACKYARD ORPHANS
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7C2

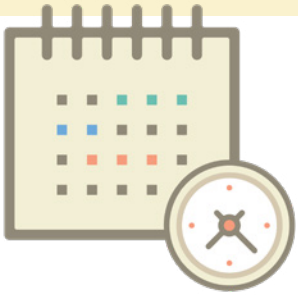
**"Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption"**
U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Theological structure: Catholic
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7C3

## Books

**"Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches"**
RUSSELL MOORE
Theological structure: Interdenominational
tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7C4
Details: The doctrine of adoption – God's decision to adopt sinful people into his family – stands at the heart of Christianity. This is about an entire culture within evangelicalism – a culture that sees adoption as part of the Great Commission mandate and as a sign of the gospel itself.

**"Everyone Can Do Something"**
JASON JOHNSON
CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS
Theological structure: Interdenominational
cafo.org/everyonecandosomething/
Details: A field guide for strategically rallying your church around the orphaned and vulnerable.

**"Reframing Foster Care"**
JASON JOHNSON
CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS
Theological structure: Interdenominational
jasonjohnsonblog.com/reframing-foster-care
Details: Written for foster parents and for those considering getting involved. Designed to help you filter your journey through the lens of the gospel, and take your next best steps forward.

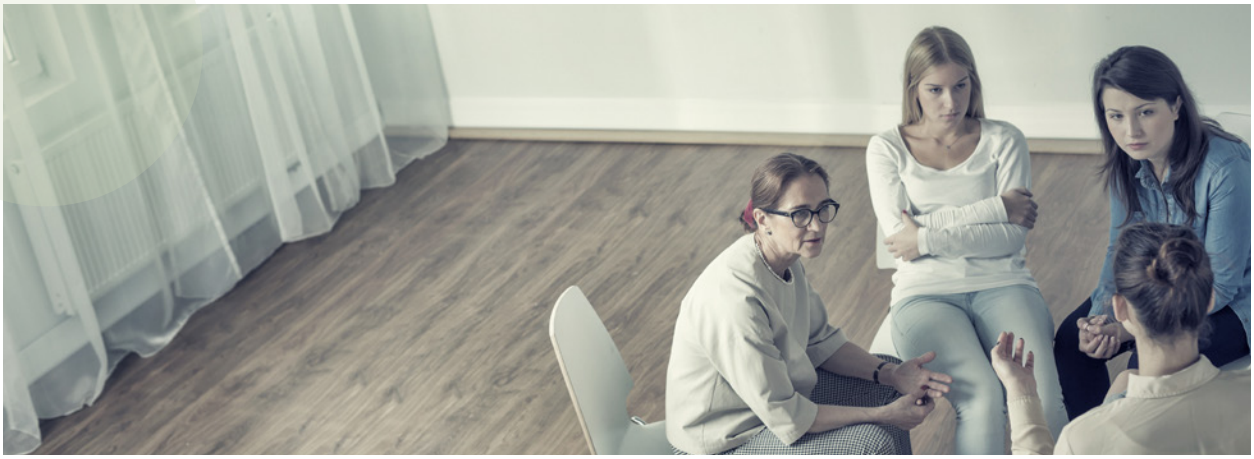


## Timely Tie-Ins

Awareness dates offer great opportunities to educate your church on life-affirming topics. They also provide openings for you to encourage member engagement with your assistance providers.

Awareness dates related to this category:

| | |
|---|---|
| MAY | **FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH** |
| | **NATIONAL CHILD CARE PROVIDER DAY** (Friday before Mother's Day)<br>Recognizes child care providers, teachers, and educators of young children everywhere. |
| | **NATIONAL BIRTHMOTHER'S DAY** (Saturday before Mother's Day) |
| | **MOTHER'S DAY** (Second Sunday) |
| JUNE | **FATHER'S DAY** (Third Sunday) |
| SEPTEMBER | **NEWBORN SCREENING AWARENESS MONTH**<br>Resources: Baby's First Test, conditions screened by state: tinyurl.com/HerPLAN7C5 |
| NOVEMBER | **NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH** |
| NOVEMBER | **ORPHAN SUNDAY** (First or second Sunday)<br>Resources: Christian Alliance for Orphans, cafo.org/orphansunday, and Lifeline Children's Services, lifelinechild.org/orphan-sunday |



# APPENDIX A

Prenatal Development and Types of Abortion

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

# THE VULNERABLE PREBORN

*At the federal level, abortion is legal in the United States up until birth. Read on to learn more about prenatal development taking place in the first, second and third trimesters of pregnancy and the most prevalent methods of abortion used during each stage.*

## The First Trimester

During this stage of pregnancy, the preborn child is developing rapidly. At four to five weeks LMP — that is, four to five weeks since the first day of the mother's last period, and just 21 days following fertilization (conception) — the baby's organs start to develop, and the heart begins to beat. These developmental milestones often take place before the mother even knows she is pregnant.

### 8 WEEKS

The preborn baby's hands and feet are developing, and the neural pathways in her brain start to form. The child is constantly moving in the womb, although the mother cannot feel it.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter8weeks

### 9 WEEKS

The child can suck her thumb, open and close her jaw, stretch, and sigh. The baby's teeth begin to form, and the heart completes dividing into four chambers.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter9weeks

### 10 WEEKS

The child's vital organs have developed and started to function. The baby is rapidly moving in the uterus, and tiny nails begin to form on the child's hands and feet.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter10weeks

### 12 WEEKS

The child develops reflexes, and can open and close fingers, respond to touch, and make movements with her mouth. The child's nerve cells are developing rapidly.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter12weeks

## Abortion Methods

### Abortion Pill

A medical (or chemical) abortion is a non-surgical form of abortion in which the woman takes pills containing Mifepristone (RU-486) and Misoprostol (Cytotec) to end the life of the baby.

**VIDEO:**
abortionprocedures.com/abortion-pill/

### Suction (Aspiration) D&C

A suction, or aspiration, D&C abortion is a procedure in which a suction catheter is inserted into the mother's uterus to extract the preborn baby. Tools are then used to scrape the lining of the uterus to remove any remaining parts.

**VIDEO:**
abortionprocedures.com/aspiration/

LIVE ACTION SOURCE: LiveAction, 2021 liveaction.org/learn/the-problem/prenatal-development-abortion/#ninja-popup-16577

## The Second Trimester

### 13 WEEKS

The preborn baby's fingerprints are visible, and the child's organs are visible through his or her thin skin.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter13weeks

### 16 WEEKS

The child's toenails begin to form, and his or her face and limbs are much more developed. The baby's heart is pumping roughly 25 quarts of blood every day and will continue as the child develops in the womb.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter16weeks

### 20 WEEKS

The child's nervous system is developed enough to feel pain. Research by the University of Toronto shows that babies at this stage can feel pain in the womb — even with greater intensity than adults. Almost all mothers feel the baby move by this point in pregnancy.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter20weeks

### 24 WEEKS

The baby is roughly a foot long, and his or her brain is developing rapidly. The child's lungs are also developing into their branch-like structure. At this age, almost all babies can survive outside the mother if given proper support.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter24weeks

## Abortion Method

### D&E

A dilation (dilatation) and evacuation abortion, D&E, is a surgical abortion procedure during which an abortionist first dilates the woman's cervix and then uses instruments to dismember and extract the baby from the uterus.

**VIDEO:** abortionprocedures.com/

### Induction

A second and third trimester induction abortion is conducted from 16 weeks LMP to term. The abortionist will usually first kill the baby in utero by injecting a substance that causes cardiac arrest and induces the mother's labor to deliver her baby stillborn. If the abortionist does not kill the baby first, s/he may be born alive.

**VIDEO:** abortionprocedures.com/induction/

LIVE ACTION SOURCE: LiveAction, 2021 liveaction.org/learn/the-problem/prenatal-development-abortion/#ninja-popup-16577

## The Third Trimester

At 25 weeks, a preborn child is fully developed and considered viable — that is, with proper medical care and attention, s/he would be able to survive outside of the womb. While medical staff is required to provide life-saving care to a child who survives an abortion procedure, it is unlikely that doctors and hospitals will take intensive measures to rescue the baby if s/he is born alive following an abortion procedure.

### 25 WEEKS

A preborn child is fully developed and considered viable, meaning the baby would likely survive outside of the womb if s/he were born. The baby's hair continues to grow, and the color and texture can be discerned. At this stage, the child is around 13½ inches long, from head to heel.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter25weeks

### 27 WEEKS

The child's brain tissue continues to develop, and the baby is sleeping and waking in regular cycles. The mother may even feel the child hiccup at this stage, which may become more common as the pregnancy progresses.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter27weeks

### Abortion Method

#### Induction

A second and third trimester induction abortion is conducted from 16 weeks LMP to term. The abortionist will usually first kill the baby in utero by injecting a substance that causes cardiac arrest and induces the mother's labor to deliver her baby stillborn. If the abortionist does not kill the baby first, s/he may be born alive.

**VIDEO:**
abortionprocedures.com/induction/

### 31 WEEKS

The baby can turn his or her head to the side and is very active in the womb. The baby kicks and does somersaults, and develops more fat underneath the skin.

SOURCE: tinyurl.com/babycenter31weeks

LIVE ACTION SOURCE: LiveAction, 2021 liveaction.org/learn/the-problem/prenatal-development-abortion/#ninja-popup-16577

B

# APPENDIX B

## Denominational Positions on Abortion

To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

# DENOMINATIONAL POSITIONS ON ABORTION

Mary E. Flynn, Her PLAN Directory Analyst

*A listing of church denominations and faith traditions and their positions on abortion follows in alphabetical order.*

*If you do not see your denomination, let us know at* **info@herplan.org**.

## Information Included:

1. Table of Contents (next page)
2. Denomination's name/tradition
3. Denomination's stance on abortion*
4. Corroboration of stance
5. National pro-life group(s) representing denomination (if applicable)
6. Percentage of denomination members who agree with stance (if available)

*NOTE: Individual congregations may differ from the stance of their national denomination's position

# Table of Contents


| DENOMINATION | FAITH TRADITION | PRO-LIFE | PRO-ABORTION | NO OFFICIAL POSITION | PAGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anglican Church in North America | | ● | | | B-3 |
| Assemblies of God | | ● | | | B-4 |
| Baptist | American Baptist | | ● | | B-5 |
| | Converge (formerly Baptist General Conference) | ● | | | B-6 |
| | National Baptist Convention | | | ● | B-7 |
| | Southern Baptist Convention | ● | | | B-8 |
| Buddhism | | | ● | ● | B-9 |
| Catholic, Roman | | ● | | | B-10/11 |
| Christian Churches/Churches of Christ (Instrumental) | | | | ● | B-12 |
| Church of God | | ● | | | B-13 |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints | | ● | | | B-14 |
| Churches of Christ, Noninstrumental | | ● | | | B-15 |
| Disciples of Christ | | | ● | | B-16 |
| Episcopal | | | ● | | B-17 |
| Evangelical Covenant | | ● | | | B-18 |
| Islam | | | ● | | B-19 |
| Judiasm | Conservative | | ● | | B-20 |
| | Orthodox | ● | | | B-21 |
| | Reform | | ● | | B-22 |
| Lutheran | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | | ● | | B-23 |
| | Missouri Synod | ● | | | B-24 |
| Methodist | African Methodist Episcopal (AME) | | | ● | B-25 |
| | United Methodist | | ● | | B-26 |
| National Association of Evangelicals | | ● | | | B-27 |
| Orthodox Church in America | | ● | | | B-28 |
| Pentecostal, United International | | ● | | | B-29 |
| Presbyterian | Evangelical Presbyterian | ● | | | B-30 |
| | Presbyterian Church in America | ● | | | B-31 |
| | Presbyterian Church (USA) | | ● | | B-32 |
| Seventh-Day Adventist | | ● | | | B-33 |
| United Church of Christ | | | ● | | B-34 |
| Wesleyan | | ● | | | B-35 |

# ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Constitution and Canons
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBa1

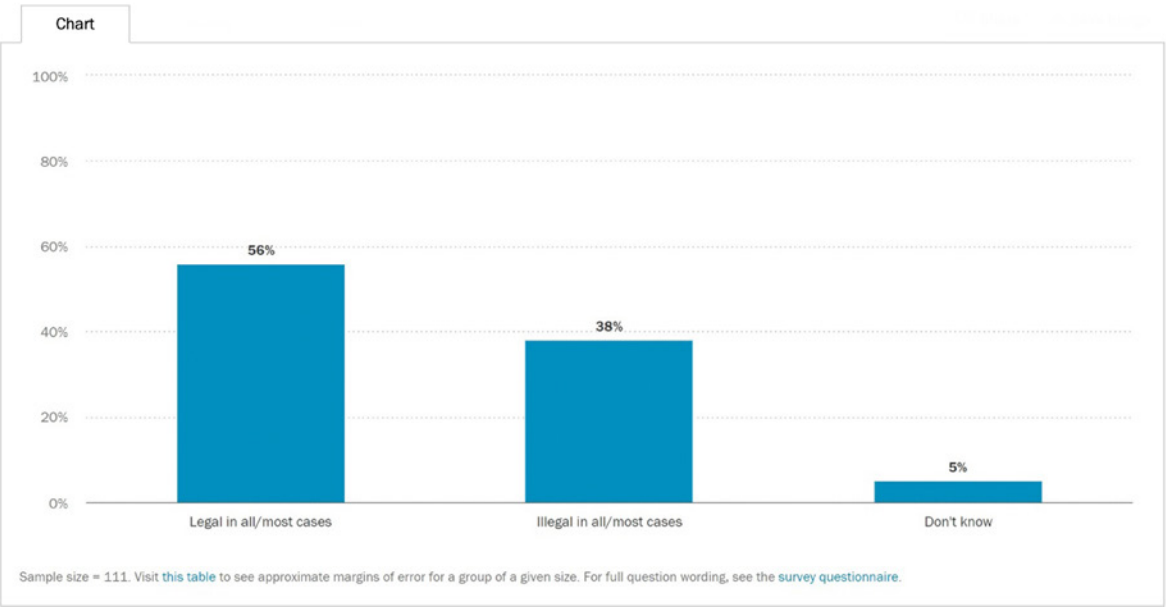
"God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, all members and clergy are called to promote and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Anglicans for Life, https://anglicansforlife.org/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**

**Views about abortion among members of the Anglican Church**

*% of members of the Anglican Church who say abortion should be...*




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 2.22.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/anglican-church/#social-and-political-views

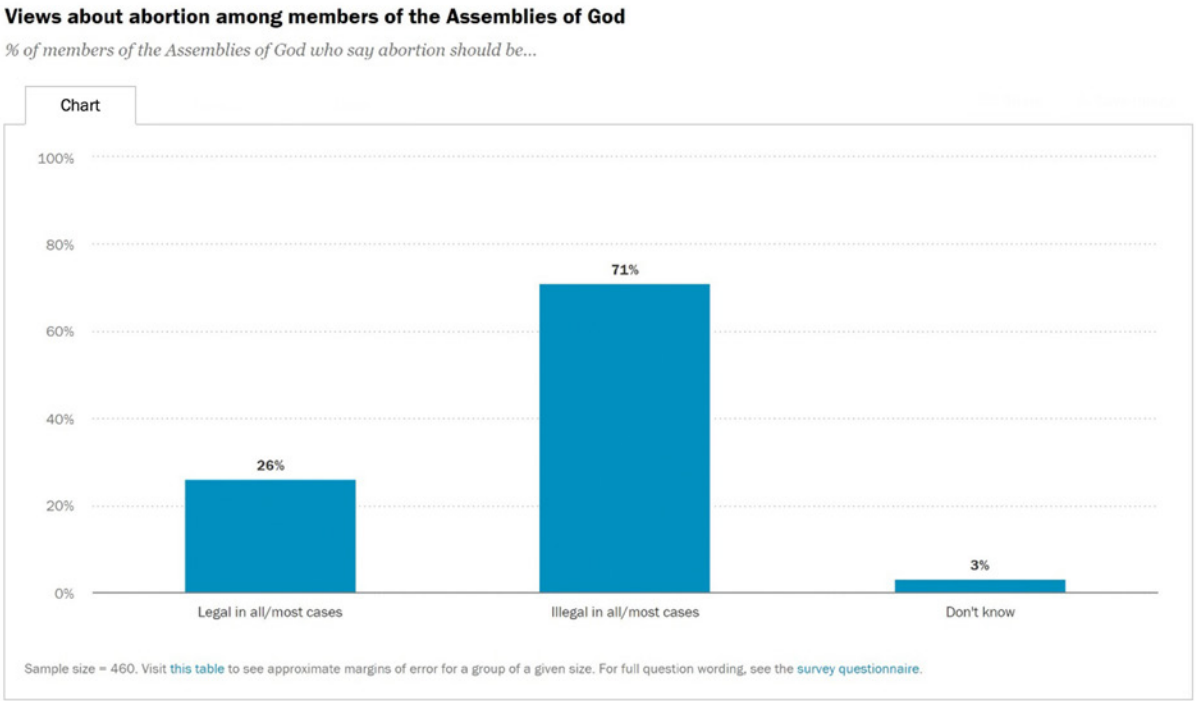
# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Sanctity of Human Life: Abortion and Reproductive Issues
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBa2

"The Assemblies of God views the practice of abortion as an evil that has been inflicted upon millions of innocent babies and that will threaten millions more in the years to come. Abortion is a morally unacceptable alternative for birth control, population control, sex selection, and elimination of the physically and mentally handicapped. Certain parts of the world are already experiencing serious population imbalances as a result of the systematic abortion of female babies. The advocacy and practice of so-called partial birth abortion of babies is particularly heinous."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/assemblies-of-god/#social-and-political-views

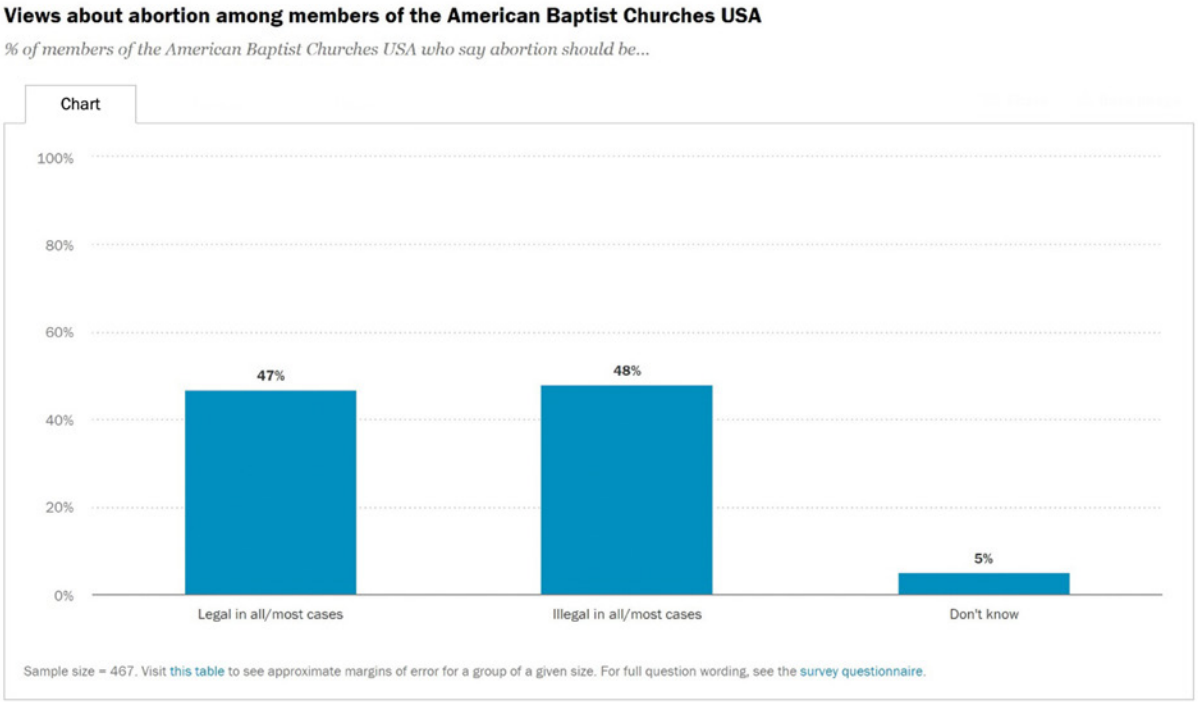
# BAPTIST, AMERICAN

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** American Baptist Resolution Concerning Abortion and Ministry in the Local Church
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBb1

"The role of the General Board in this matter is not to direct churches, but to assist them in carrying out ministry and advocacy according to their convictions. Therefore, as a reflection of American Baptist thought, this resolution is offered to assist our churches. As American Baptists, members of a covenant community of believers in Jesus Christ, we acknowledge life as a sacred and gracious gift of God. We affirm that God is the Creator of all life, that human beings are created in the image of God, and Christ is Lord of life. Recognizing this gift of life, we find ourselves struggling with the painful and difficult issue of abortion. Genuine diversity of opinion threatens the unity of our fellowship, but the nature of the covenant demands mutual love and respect. Together, we must seek the mind of Christ. As American Baptists we oppose abortion, as a means of avoiding responsibility for conception, as a primary means of birth control, without regard for the far-reaching consequences of the act. We denounce irresponsible sexual behavior and acts of violence that contribute to the large number of abortions each year. We grieve with all who struggle with the difficult circumstances that lead them to consider abortion. Recognizing that each person is ultimately responsible to God, we encourage men and women in these circumstances to seek spiritual counsel as they prayerfully and conscientiously consider their decision."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/american-baptist-churches-usa/#social-and-political-views

# BAPTIST, CONVERGE

(Formerly Baptist General Conference)

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Resolution-Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBb2

"Recognizing the critical nature and complexity of the issue of abortion, be it resolved that the Baptist General Conference opposes abortion on demand and encourages its members to influence public opinion in this regard and that our attitude toward those involved in abortion and abortion decisions, be able to speak the truth in love, seeking to bring to bear the forgiveness of God and healing through Christ's body, the church."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**
Not Available

# BAPTIST, NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

**Life-affirming? NO CLEAR POSITION**

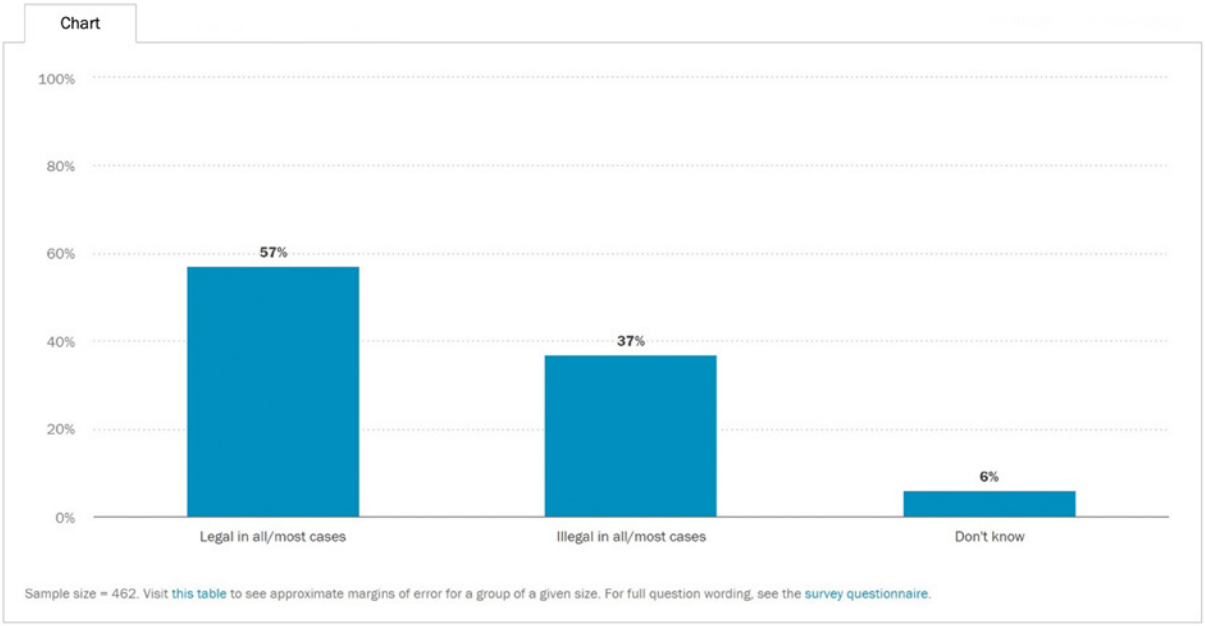
**Position statement:** Organizational Structure
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBb3

"The nature of this convention is defined by its ideal of voluntary membership and participation at both the organization and individual member levels. As such, the Convention does not prescribe nor exercise administrative or doctrinal control over any of its membership; these matters are left for the attention of local organization and church authorities. The strength of the Convention lies in its ability to harness and coordinate and network the resources and efforts of its membership to accomplish goals greater than those that could be accomplished in isolation. For this reason, the Convention has enjoyed the devoted participation and support of many churches and individuals throughout its history."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**

**Views about abortion among members of the National Baptist Convention**

*% of members of the National Baptist Convention who say abortion should be...*




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/national-baptist-convention/#social-and-political-views

# BAPTIST, SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

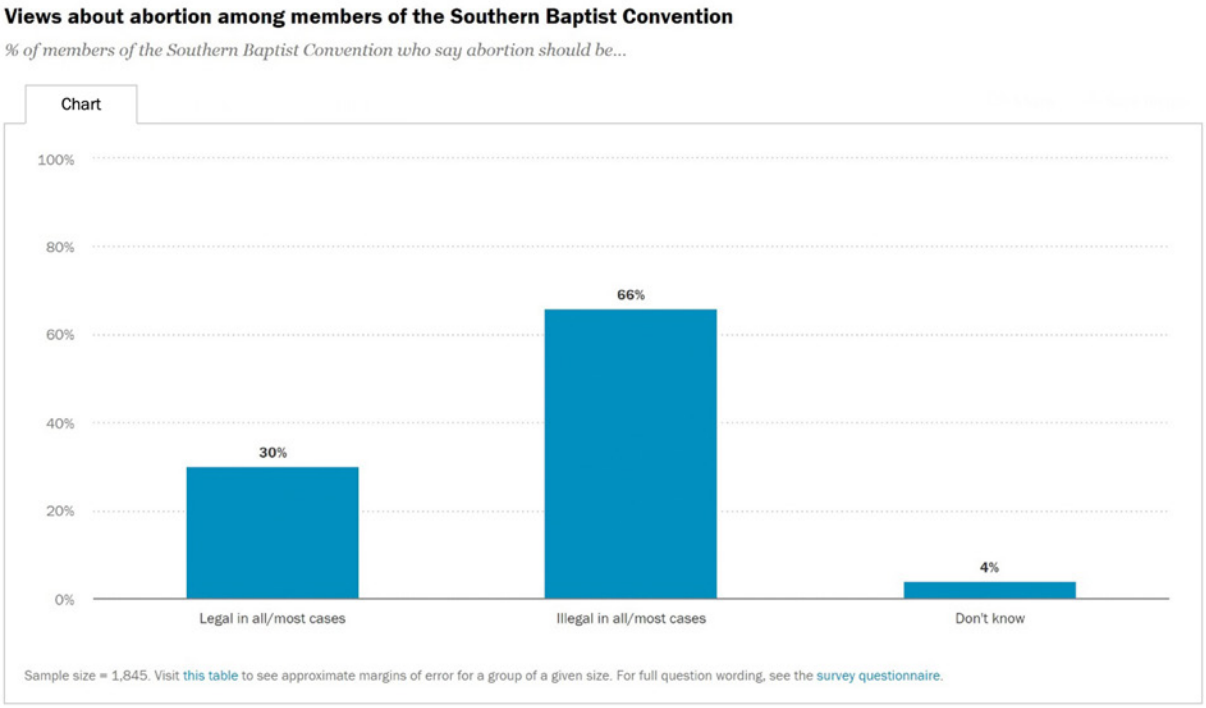
**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Baptist Faith and Message 2000, XVIII
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBb4

"Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, https://erlc.com/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/southern-baptist-convention/#social-and-political-views

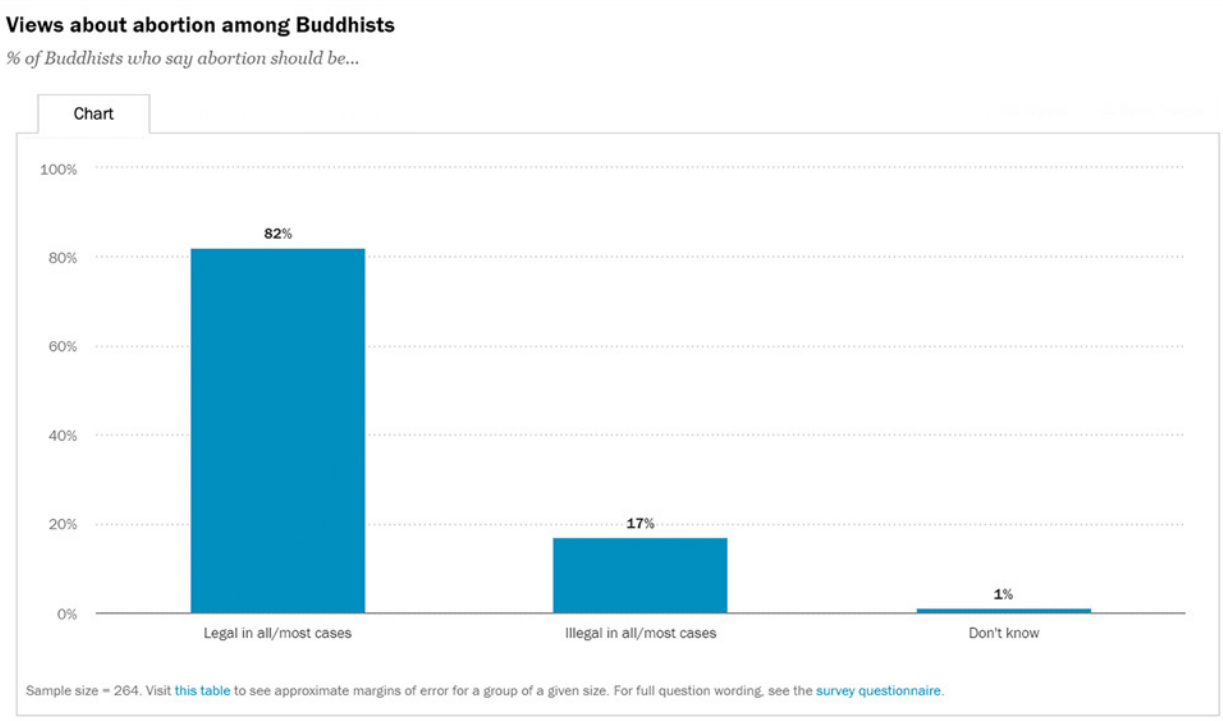
# BUDDHISM

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** The New York Times Archives (Interview with the Dalai Lama)
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBb5

"Of course, abortion, from a Buddhist viewpoint, is an act of killing and is negative, generally speaking. But it depends on the circumstances. If the unborn child will be retarded or if the birth will create serious problems for the parent, these are cases where there can be an exception."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 6.7.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/buddhist/#views-about-abortion

# CATHOLIC, ROMAN

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Catechism of the Catholic Church
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBc1

2270: Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person – among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.[72]

> Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.[73]
>
> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.[74]

2271: Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law:

> You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish.[75]
>
> God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception; abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes.[76]

(continued on next page)

72 Cf. CDF, *Donum Vitae* I, 1.

73 *Jer* 1:5, cf. *Job* 10:8-12; *Ps* 22:10-11

74 *Ps* 139:15

75 *Didache* 2, 2: SCh 248, 148; cf. *Ep. Barnabae* 19, 5: PG 2, 777; *Ad Diognetum* 5, 6: PG 2, 1173; Tertullian, *Apol*. 9: PL1, 319-320

76 *GS* 51 § 3.

# CATHOLIC, ROMAN

(continued from previous page)

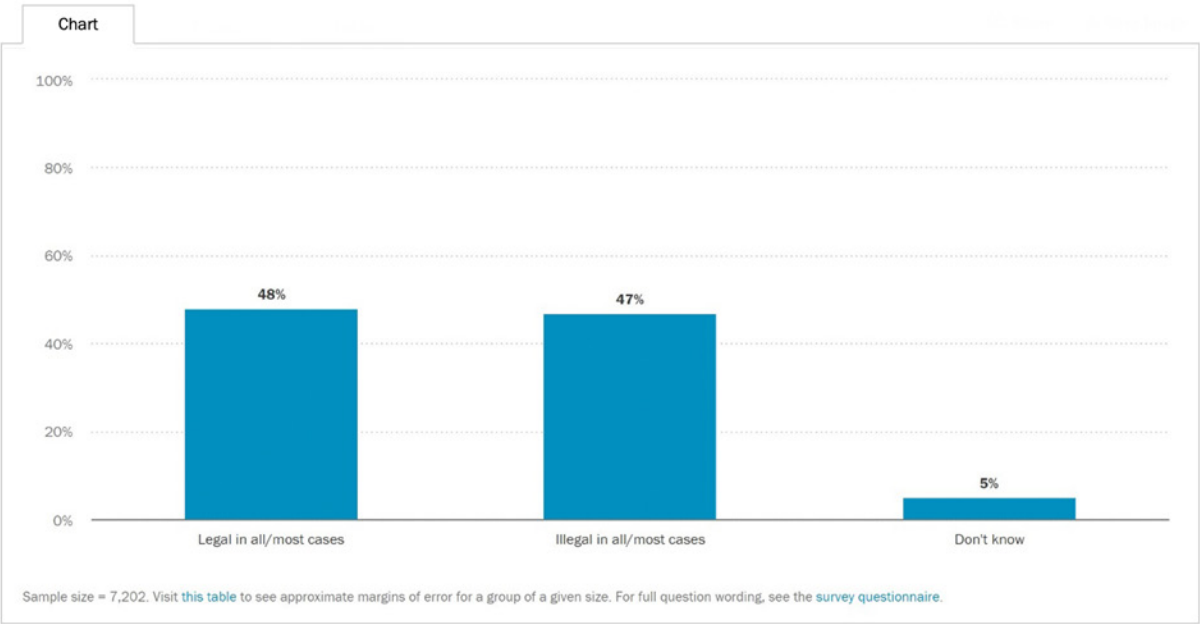
**National related pro-life organizations:**

Catholics United for Life, https://www.catholicsunitedforlife.org/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**

**Views about abortion among Catholics**

*% of Catholics who say abortion should be...*

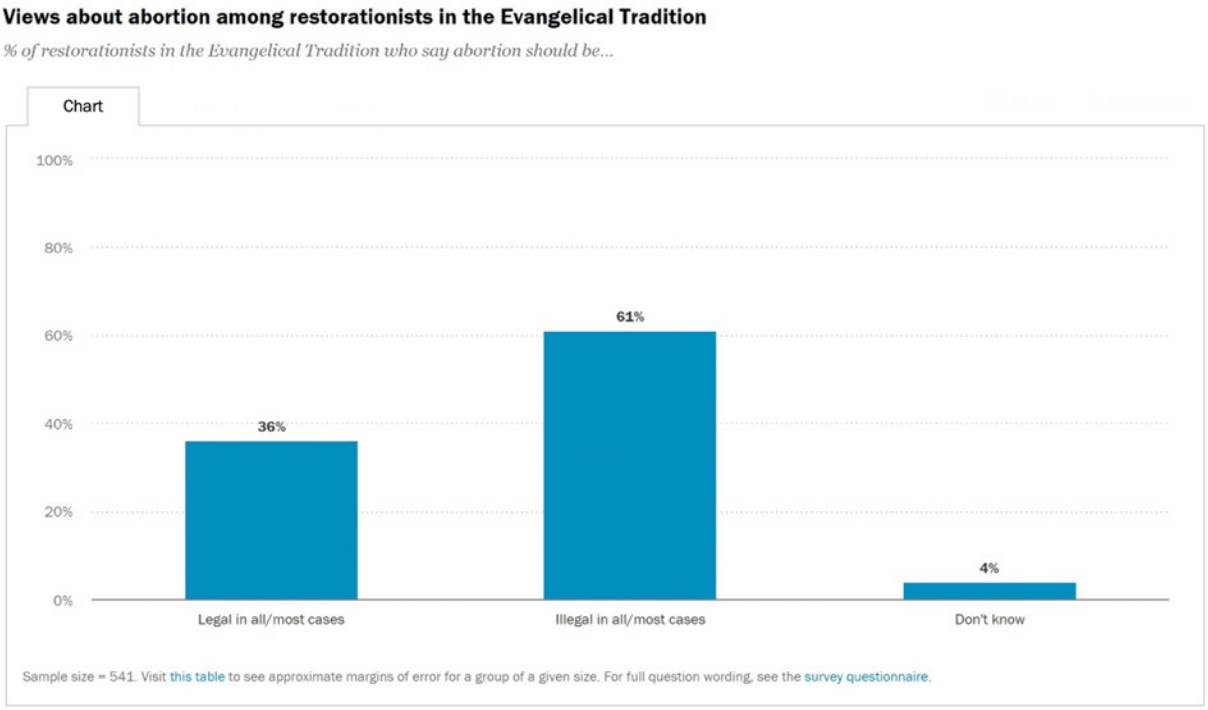



Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/catholic/#social-and-political-views

# CHRISTIAN CHURCHES/CHURCHES OF CHRIST (Instrumental)

**Life-affirming? NO CLEAR POSITION**

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-family/restorationist-family-evangelical-trad/#social-and-political-views

# CHURCH OF GOD

**Life-affirming? YES**

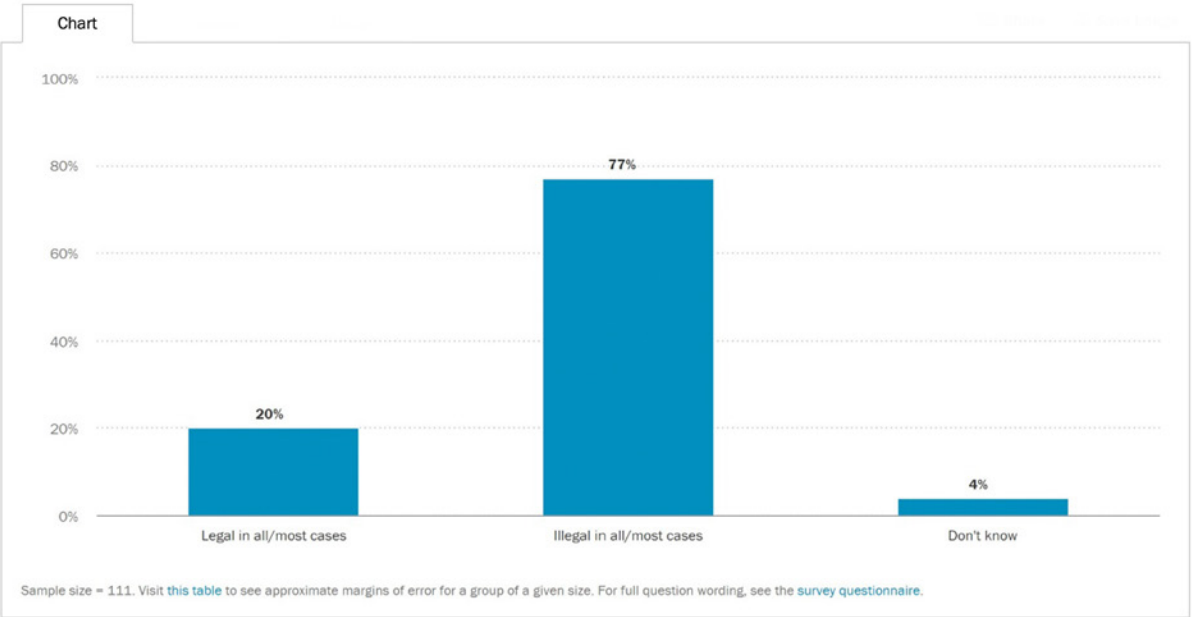
**Position statement:** Practical Commitments-Social Obligation
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBc2

"God alone confers life (Genesis 1:1-31); therefore, we are responsible to God to care for our physical life and that of others. If the circumstances require, we must be prepared to risk our life in the service of our neighbor (John 15:13); but the general rule is that we must respect our physical life and employ every worthy means to maintain it. Since God alone confers life, God alone must decide when it is to be ended (Psalm 31:14, 15). Because a human fetus is sacred and blessed of God, we believe that we have the responsibility to protect the life of the unborn (Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41). It is our firm conviction that abortion and euthanasia of aged, mentally incompetent, terminally ill and otherwise handicapped, for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment or economic advantage, are morally wrong. Furthermore, we believe it is our Christian responsibility to care for the earth and its resources. In the beginning God gave man dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26-30). This does not, however, give us license to pollute our natural environment or to waste the resources of the earth."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**

**Views about abortion among members of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)**

*% of members of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) who say abortion should be...*




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/church-of-god-cleveland-tennessee/#social-and-political-views

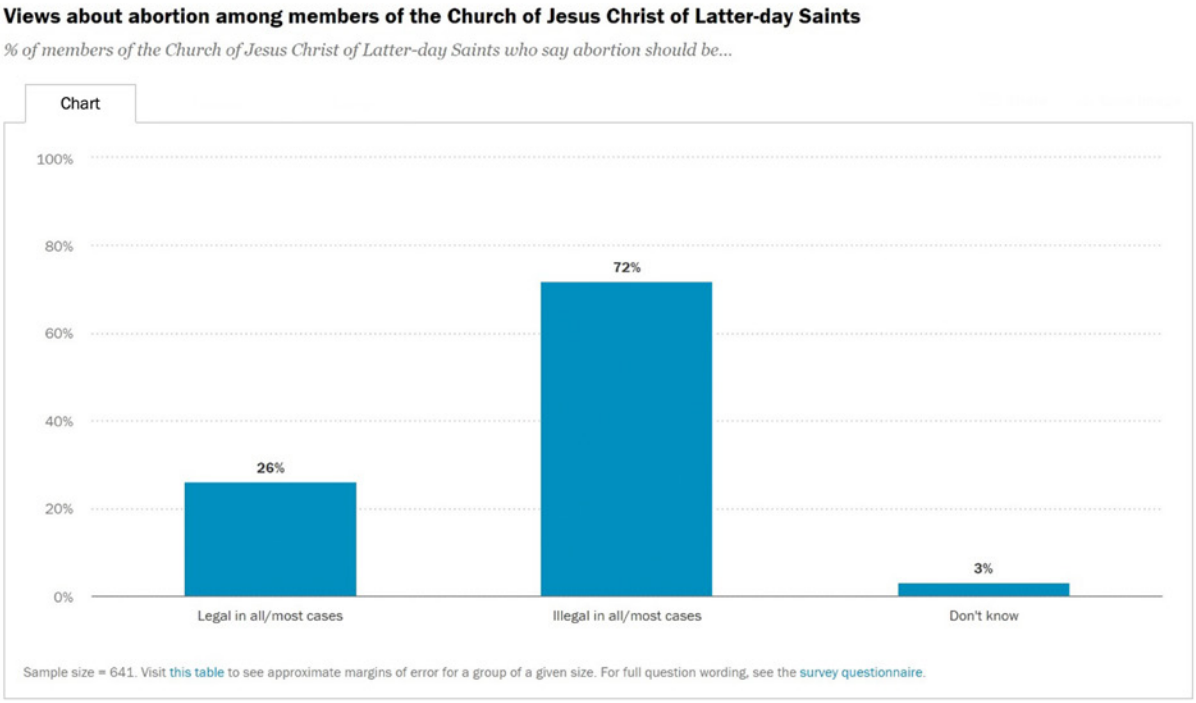
# CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (Mormon)

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** True to the Faith
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBc3

"In today's society, abortion has become a common practice, defended by deceptive arguments. If you face questions about this matter, you can be secure in following the revealed will of the Lord. Latter-day prophets have denounced abortion, referring to the Lord's declaration, "Thou shalt not … kill, nor do anything like unto it" (D&C 59:6). Their counsel on the matter is clear: Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints must not submit to, perform, encourage, pay for, or arrange for an abortion. If you encourage an abortion in any way, you may be subject to Church discipline. Church leaders have said that some exceptional circumstances may justify an abortion, such as when pregnancy is the result of incest or rape, when the life or health of the mother is judged by competent medical authority to be in serious jeopardy, or when the fetus is known by competent medical authority to have severe defects that will not allow the baby to survive beyond birth. But even these circumstances do not automatically justify an abortion. Those who face such circumstances should consider abortion only after consulting with their local Church leaders and receiving a confirmation through earnest prayer. When a child is conceived out of wedlock, the best option is for the mother and father of the child to marry and work toward establishing an eternal family relationship. If a successful marriage is unlikely, they should place the child for adoption, preferably through LDS Family Services"

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/church-of-jesus-christ-of-latter-day-saints/#social-and-political-views

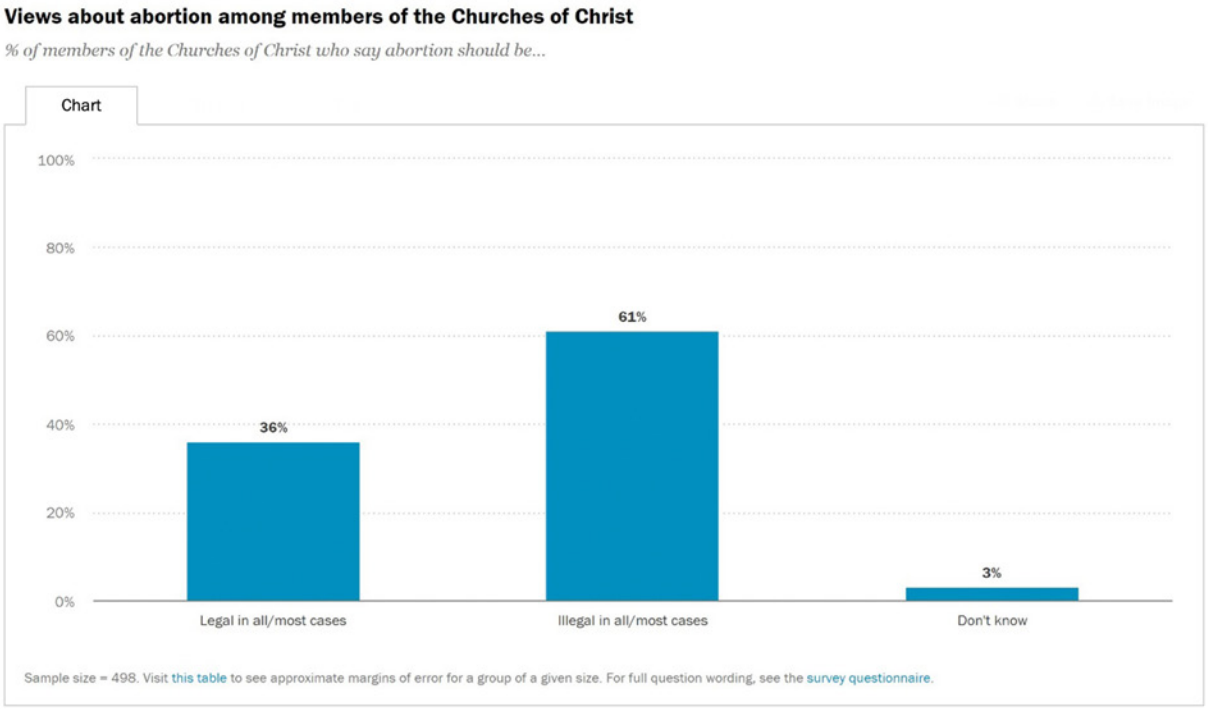
# CHURCHES OF CHRIST, NONINSTRUMENTAL

**Life-affirming? NO OFFICIAL POSITION**

**Position statement:** The Churches of Christ... Who Are These People?
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBc4

"Churches of Christ have none of the trappings of modern-day organizational bureaucracy. There are no governing boards--neither district, regional, national nor international--no earthly headquarters and no man-designed organization. Each congregation is autonomous (self- ruled) and is independent of every other congregation. The only tie which binds the many congregations together is a common allegiance to Christ and the Bible. There are no conventions, annual meetings, nor official publications. Congregations do cooperate in supporting children's homes, homes for the elderly, mission work, etc. However, participation is strictly voluntary on the part of each congregation and no person nor group issues policies or makes decisions for other congregations. Each congregation is governed locally by a plurality of elders selected from among the members. These are men who meet the specific qualifications for this office given in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. There are also deacons in each congregation. These must meet the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/churches-of-christ/#social-and-political-views

# DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** Proactive Prevention: Seeking Common Ground on the Issue of Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBd1

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting at Cincinnati, Ohio, October 26-31, 1973, strongly encourages individual congregations to give disciplined study to the matter of abortion, calling upon ethical resources of all God's people, contemporary and historical, and upon those disciplines which bear upon it, such as medicine, psychology, and laws. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that persons who must decide whether or not to undergo an abortion shall have the informed supportive resources of the Christian community to help them make responsible choices, and that congregations and individuals give continued full support to each person who must make such a decision, knowing that whether or not an abortion is decided the person will need the supportive assurance of God's grace and love which meaningfully can come with the Christian community."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**
Not Available

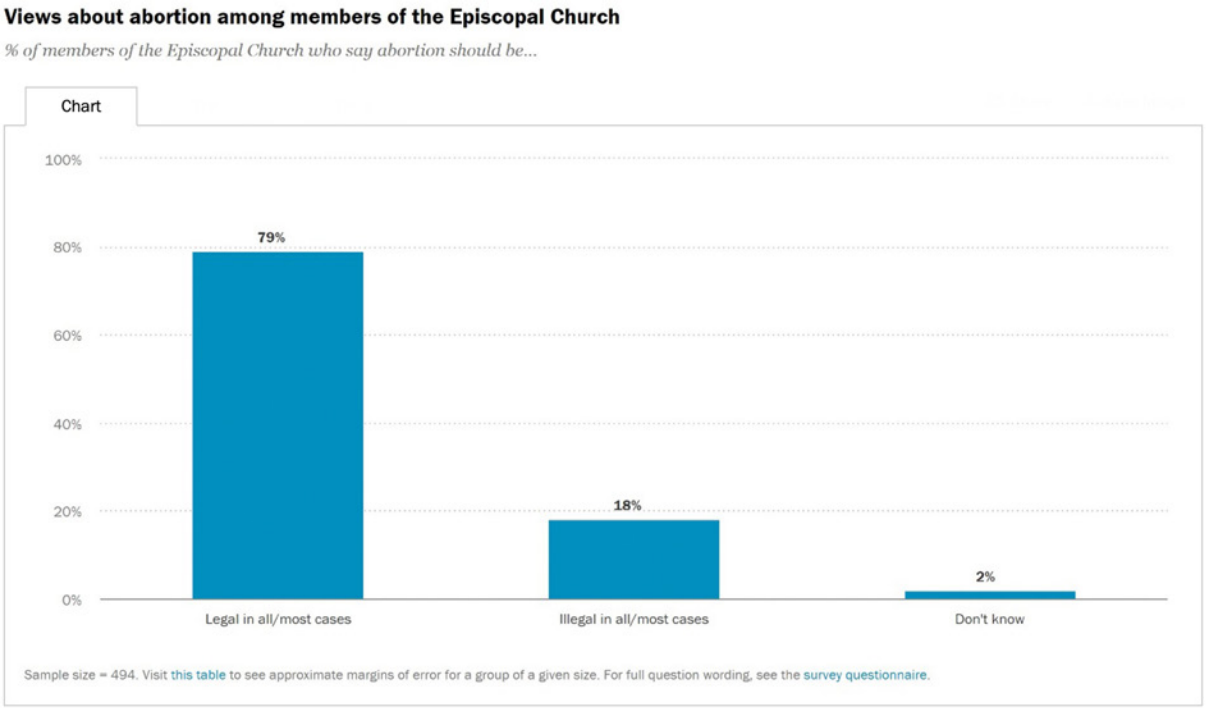
# EPISCOPAL

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** Adopt a Statement on Childbirth and Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBe1

"While we acknowledge that in this country it is the legal right of every woman to have a medically safe abortion, as Christians we believe strongly that if this right is exercised, it should be used only in extreme situations. We emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience. In those cases where an abortion is being considered, members of this Church are urged to seek the dictates of their consciences in prayer, to seek the advice and counsel of members of the Christian community and where appropriate the sacramental life of this Church."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/episcopal-church/#social-and-political-views

# EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** 2004 Abortion Resolution
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBe2

"We deplore the use of abortion as an alternative to risk avoidance/healthy relationships/abstinence or, within the covenant of marriage, other appropriate contraceptive measures. We affirm women who continue their pregnancies to full term despite personal hardship, distress, suffering, and even the risk of death. We affirm and encourage women who choose to place their newborn infants for adoption, preferably through Christian placement agencies. We believe abortion to be wrong and grieve whenever an abortion takes place. However, we recognize that in some tragic instances abortion may need to be considered to safeguard the life of the mother. In all cases we urge immediate steps to seek medical and pastoral assistance. Aware of our own frailties and living in an imperfect world, we humbly seek God's guidance in all matters of sexual behavior, and pregnancy. We encourage the Evangelical Covenant Church at all levels to continue discussion in the whole area of sexuality, under guidance of the Holy Spirit and reliance on Scripture. We challenge our churches, first, to support women—married or single—as they carry through their unexpected pregnancies and the decision of parenting or adoption; second, to provide healing and restoration to whose who have been affected by abortion; and third, to educate youth and adults on responsible sexual behavior."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**
Not Available

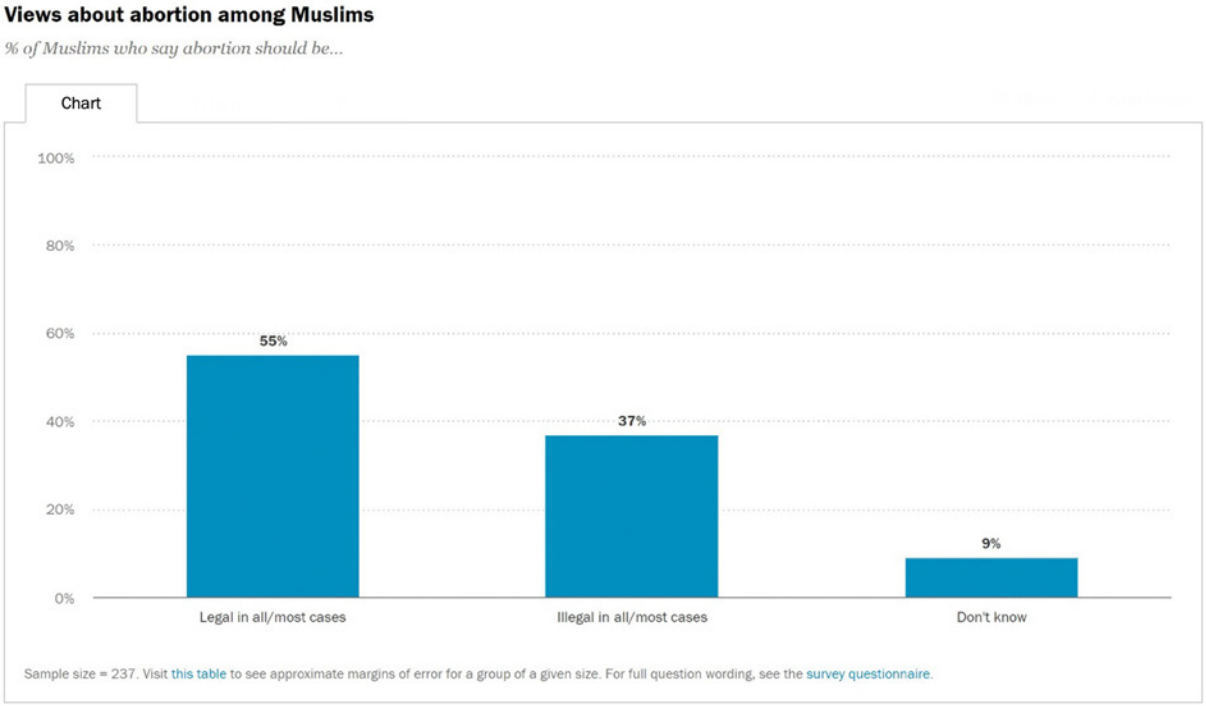
# ISLAM

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** Islam and the Abortion Debate
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBi1

"Only in this case can the pregnancy be terminated after 120 days. The logic behind this is an agreed upon legal maxim in Islamic law: certainty should not be overridden by doubt. In other words, a potential life (that of the infant) should not threaten a stable life (that of the mother).... Between 40 and 120 days from conception, the four madhabs disagreed, even within their own ranks, and so we will state the dominant position of each school. The Mâlikis traditionally were the strictest in this regard; they opposed any medical technique as a means of birth control (such as drinking medicine), with some even opposed to seeking to expel the semen after intercourse. The dominant Hanafi position was far more lenient in permitting abortion up until 120 days from conception, with some even allowing it without the husband's permission. Nowadays, many contemporary juristic assemblies prescribe the position held by the Hanbalis; permitting abortion up until 40 days, and only up until 120 days when a pressing need is present (such as rape, or an extreme fetal deformity incompatible with life)."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/muslim/#social-and-political-views

# JUDAISM, CONSERVATIVE

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** Resolution on Reproductive Freedom in the United States
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBj1

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly urge its members to support full access for all women to the entire spectrum of reproductive health care; Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly urge its members to oppose all efforts by governmental, private entities or individuals to limit such access or to require unnecessary procedures; and Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly urge its members to oppose "personhood" legislation on the federal and state levels that would confer legal rights under the law to a fetus or an embryo."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Jewish Life League, https://www.jewishlifeleague.org/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**
Not Available

# JUDAISM, ORTHODOX

**Life-affirming? MIXED;** Orthodox Judiasm is a highly decentralized movement with individual rabbis varying widely in what they consider a serious-enough threat to the life of the mother to justify abortion, some rabbis not life-affirming, and generally not falling into a standard pro-life position.

**Life-affirming position:** "Judaism is Emphatically 'Pro-Life,'" *Newsweek*
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBj2

"Jewish legal authorities from ancient times through the present day categorize abortion as a form of murder. Throughout most of history, it was impossible to determine whether a baby in the womb would be viable once he or she emerged—that this precluded a court from imposing capital punishment upon the murderer of a fetus hardly means that the act is therefore permitted. Jewish law also not merely permits, but demands, that the Sabbath be violated in order to save a fetal life. As lifesaving activity is the only situation in which a Sabbath violation is permitted; were a fetus not deemed alive by the Torah, this behavior would be entirely prohibited. Thus, the NCJW document's claim that "Jewish law does not consider a fetus to have the status of personhood" is categorically false. But the most fundamental reference to Judaism's unique perspective is perhaps found in the Mishnah. According to Jewish teaching, Moses was given most of our laws orally at Sinai, and these were only written down when later rabbis recognized that its many details were in danger of being forgotten. The Mishnah, then, is the earliest written record of this Oral Law. And it teaches us that termination of pregnancy is not merely permitted, but obligatory, when the fetus endangers the mother's life—'because her life precedes his.' It could not be more clear that a fetal life is indeed a life. Termination of pregnancy is an indescribable tragedy if the life of that fetus cannot be saved, as well; it is never a 'choice.'"

**Non-life-affirming position:** "Abortion is a Religious Right," *Atlanta Jewish Times*
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBj3

"Reproductive justice brings a racial and economic justice framework to the work for reproductive freedom, recognizing and addressing disparities in social, economic and political power and how this impacts access to reproductive health care. The work toward reproductive justice was started and continues to be led by women of color, a population systematically marginalized when it comes to accessible health care. And since building a just society for everyone is a Jewish concern, I am honored to stand up in this movement. We must not remain quiet while barriers to health care place any individual's health, well-being, autonomy or economic security at risk—something which pregnancy so often does."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:** Not available

# JUDAISM, REFORM

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** Free Choice in Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBj4

"It has been the longstanding position of the UAHC, which we again state, to affirm the legal right of a woman to exercise her moral and religious conscience regarding abortion. Our tradition has always upheld the sacredness of life. Similarly, it has upheld the sacredness of the body."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**
Not Available

# LUTHERAN, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** A Social Statement on: Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBl1

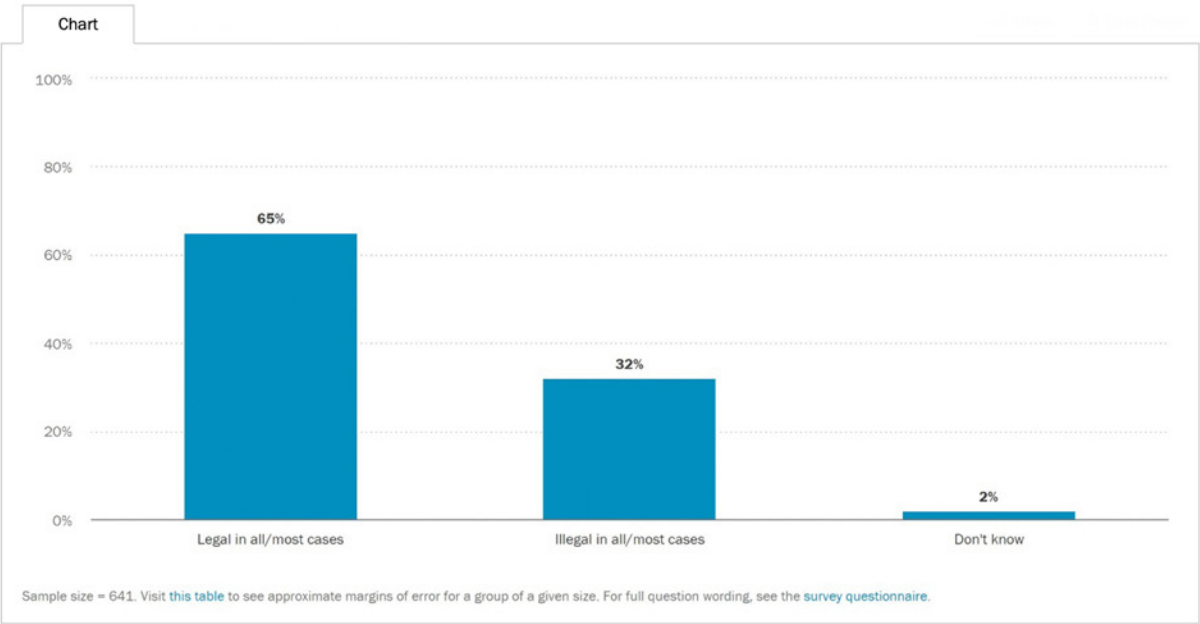
"Because we believe that God is the creator of life, the number of induced abortions is a source of deep concern to this church. We mourn the loss of life that God has created. The strong Christian presumption is to preserve and protect life. Abortion ought to be an option only of last resort. Therefore, as a church we seek to reduce the need to turn to abortion as the answer to unintended pregnancies. ... The position of this church is that, in cases where the life of the mother is threatened, where pregnancy results from rape or incest, or where the embryo or fetus has lethal abnormalities incompatible with life, abortion prior to viability should not be prohibited by law or by lack of public funding of abortions for low income women. On the other hand, this church supports legislation that prohibits abortions that are performed after the fetus is determined to be viable, except when the mother's life is threatened or when lethal abnormalities indicate the prospective newborn will die very soon."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Lutherans for Life, https://lutheransforlife.org/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**

**Views about abortion among members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

*% of members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) who say abortion should be...*




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/evangelical-lutheran-church-in-america-elca/#social-and-political-views

# LUTHERAN, MISSOURI SYNOD

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** What About Abortion?
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBI2

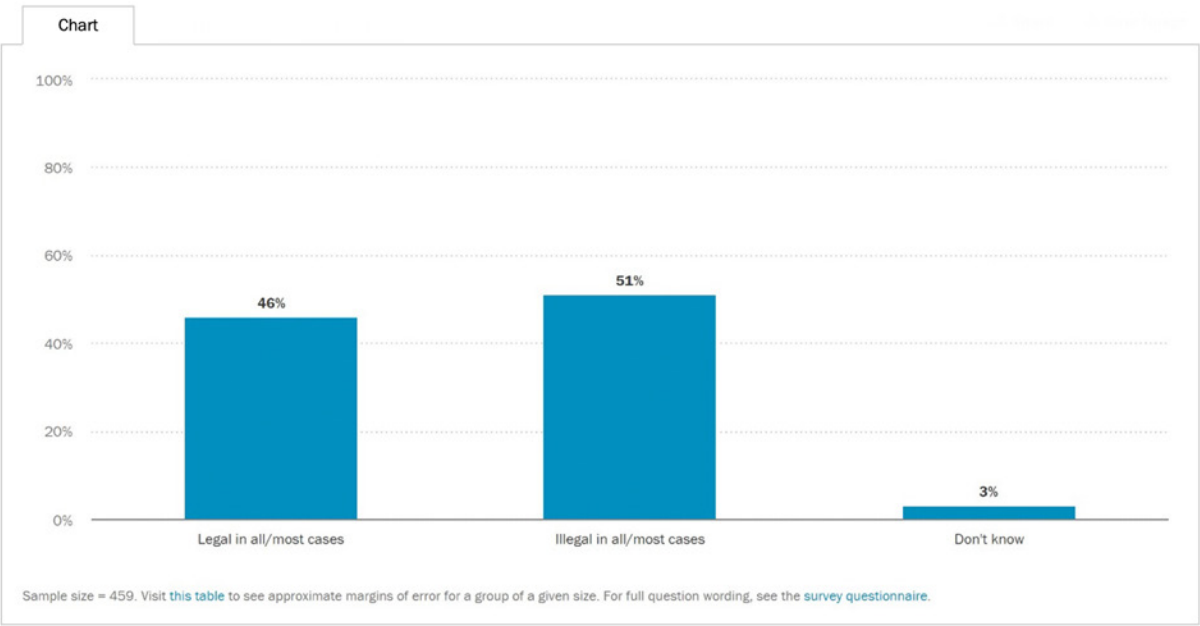
"Our church's explanation of the Small Catechism puts the matter well when it says, 'The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother.' The sin of willfully aborting a child, except in those very rare situations where it may be necessary to save the life of the mother, is a sinful act, totally contrary to the will of God."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Lutherans for Life, https://lutheransforlife.org/
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Life Ministry, https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**

**Views about abortion among members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

*% of members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod who say abortion should be...*




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/lutheran-church-missouri-synod/#social-and-political-views

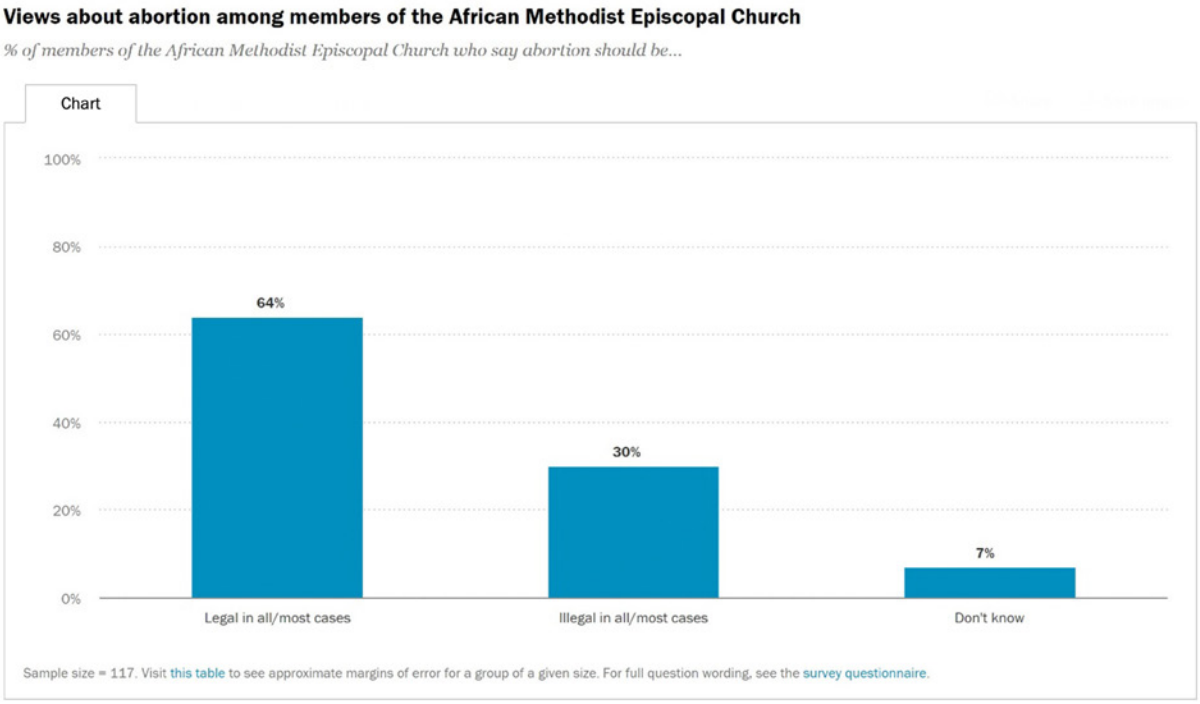
# METHODIST, AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME)

**Life-affirming? NO CLEAR POSITION**

**Position statement:** Article, "Faith Abortion," Washington Post, January 23, 1990
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBm1

"Bishop John H. Adams, senior bishop of the Atlanta-based African Methodist Episcopal Church, with more than 2.2 million members, says that there are many different points of view within the church, and that as a body it has no official position on abortion. Bishop Adams believes, however, that most members of the AME Church believe that 'abortion is usually wrong except where a greater wrong would be involved, such as the cases of rape, incest and when the life of the mother is in jeopardy.' But he also says that most AME members believe that 'people have the right to control their own bodies,' and that it is 'a decision of the woman and her family and not of the government.'"

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/african-methodist-episcopal-church/

# METHODIST, UNITED METHODIST

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** Social Principles: The Nurturing Community
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBm2

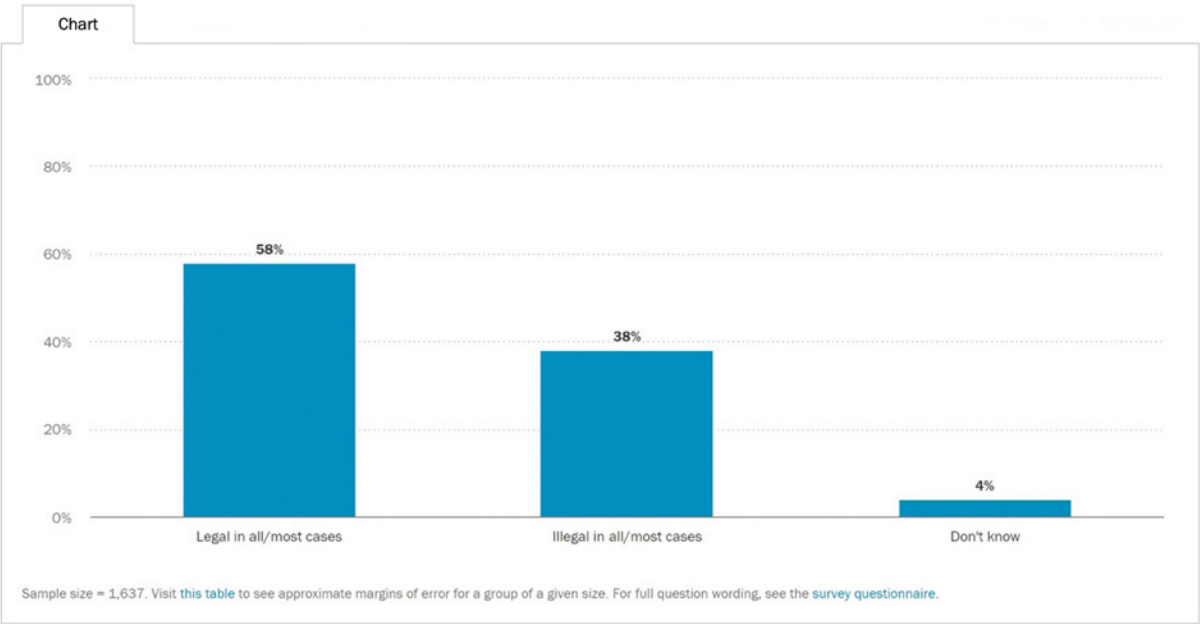
"We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers. We support parental, guardian, or other responsible adult notification and consent before abortions can be performed on girls who have not yet reached the age of legal adulthood. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection or eugenics (see Resolution 3184). We oppose the use of late-term abortion known as dilation and extraction (partial-birth abortion) and call for the end of this practice except when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Lifewatch, https://lifewatch.org/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**

**Views about abortion among members of the United Methodist Church**

*% of members of the United Methodist Church who say abortion should be...*




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/united-methodist-church/#social-and-political-views

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

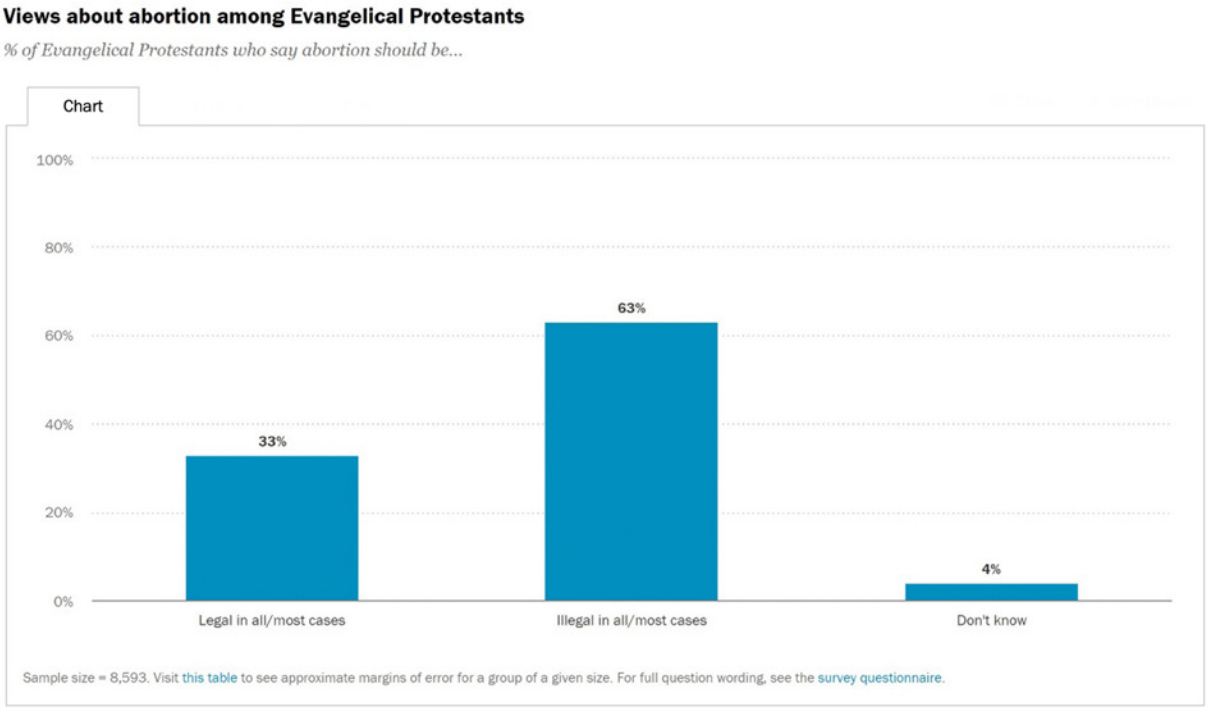
**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Resolution: Abortion 2010
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBn1

"The NAE actively, ardently and unwaveringly opposes abortion on demand. However, we do not dismiss those who advocate for legal access to abortion as unconcerned for human life or unworthy of our respect and attention. Lack of civility and charity toward our neighbor is also unacceptable (Mark 12:31). The NAE is pleased that some longtime opponents in the debate over the legality of abortion have expressed interest in working together to dramatically reduce the incidence of abortion in the United States. Without compromising our core convictions, we seek honest conversation about ways to achieve this goal. These conversations should build on our shared concerns for human dignity, protecting children and promoting healthy families and communities.... We are grateful for those already working in ministries supporting children and youth, pregnancy care, adoption, single parents and parents of children with special needs, poverty relief, biblically sound family planning, sexual purity and accountability, and marriage strengthening. Each of these ministries can contribute to reducing the number of abortions."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Evangelicals for Life, http://evangelicalsforlife.com/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/evangelical-protestant/#social-and-political-views

# ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

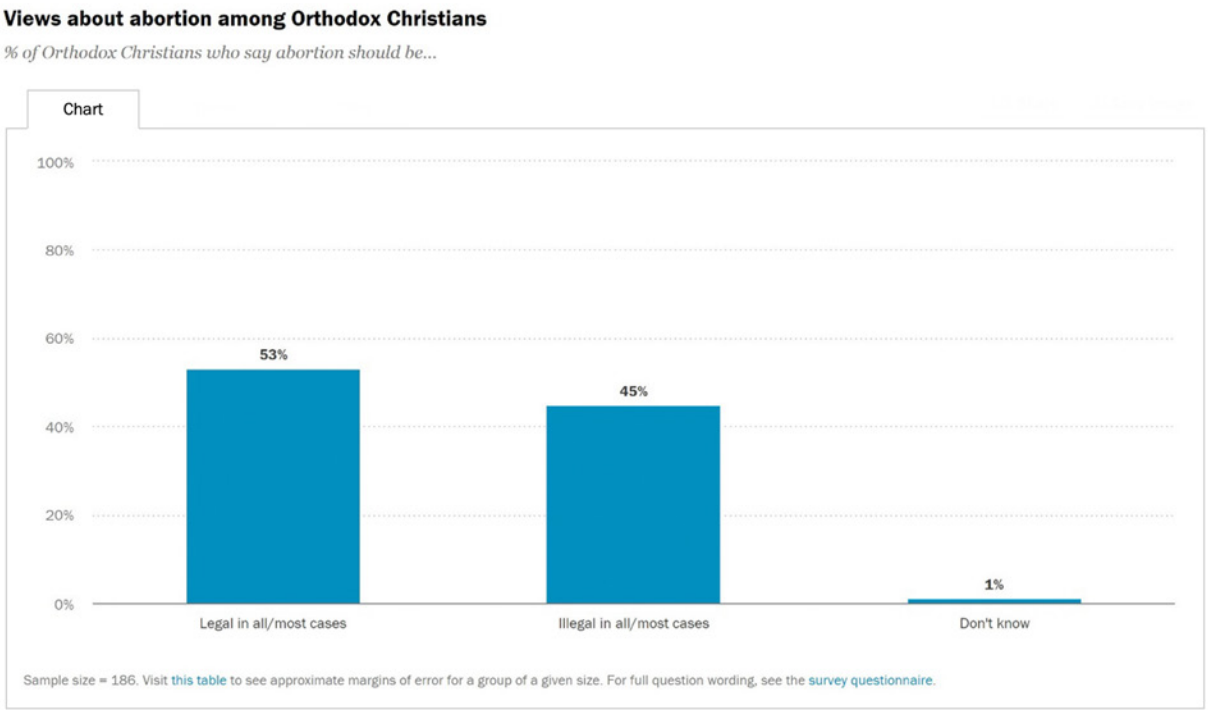
**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Orthodox Christians and Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBo1

"[What] is the most effective way to bear witness to our belief that we exist because of God's love? This belief is at the root of the Orthodox opposition to abortion and to every other detail of the holiness of every human life. Many of those who oppose abortion have worked against a legal climate that has made the choice of abortion a relatively simple thing. The United States has the most permissive abortion laws in the industrialized Western world; there are more restrictions even in the most secular nations of Western Europe. Working to change the legal climate makes good sense and is one valuable form of pro-life witness. It is not enough, however. Harvard Law professor Mary Ann Glendon has pointed out that the United States not only has the most permissive abortion laws in the industrialized West; its social policy does less for women and children than any other industrialized nation. She sees a connection. A nation in which single women, or poor married women, are afraid to have children because they will be left alone if they do is one in which abortion will often be seen as a lesser evil. To see it that way is wrong, from a Christian point of view. But it is also wrong to condemn abortion, without trying to help those for whom bearing a child will involve real burdens."

**National related pro-life organizations:** Orthodox Christians for Life, https://oclife.org/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/orthodox-christian/#social-and-political-views

# PENTECOSTAL, UNITED INTERNATIONAL

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Position statement, Location: Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBp1

"Be it therefore resolved that the United Pentecostal Church International go on record as opposing abortion on demand. Be it further resolved that we voice our opposition to any legislation at provincial, state, or national levels which would bring about a climate designed to undermine the sanctity of human life, further destroying the moral fiber of our society. Be it further resolved that we give ourselves to earnest prayer during the time of [the revival endeavor called Global] Conquest for an awakening in our North American society of moral consciousness concerning this issue. Be it further resolved that we encourage and help provide for proper biblical solutions to this problem and that we continue to reach out through pastoral counseling, through biblically-based maternity care and adoption ministries, and through biblically-based crisis pregnancy services, to those who have been caught or blighted in any way by the effect or contemplation of abortion. Be it further resolved that we encourage our ministers, churches and other counselors, who assist and counsel those who are faced with unplanned pregnancy situations, to offer a full range of biblically-based alternatives, including maternity care, foster care and adoption, so that more birthmothers will choose life for their babies. Be it further resolved that we again reaffirm that we want to minister with compassion to those who may presently suffer the trauma of having had an abortion."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**
Not Available

# PRESBYTERIAN, EVANGELICAL

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Position Paper: Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBp2

"1. A woman facing a problematic pregnancy or an unexpected pregnancy should expect to receive support, love, acceptance and wise counsel from her pastor(s), counselor(s), physician(s) and fellow Christians. Regardless of the woman's decision, the Church should always provide compassionate biblical and spiritual guidance to that individual. 2. The Church must serve as a loving and supportive community to any man involved to inform and direct him in his personal responsibilities and obligations as the child's father. 3. The Church must be supportive of the woman who chooses life for the child of an unexpected pregnancy and must seek ways to support and care for those children carried to term through unexpected pregnancy. 4. The Church must serve as a loving and supportive community to those who have experienced physical, emotional, or spiritual wounds as a result of undergoing an abortion or placing a child for adoption. 5. Christians should individually and corporately oppose abortion (except under the most extreme of circumstances that endanger the physical life of the mother), and do everything in their power to provide support groups, para-church ministries and sponsoring agencies that offer viable alternatives to abortion. 6. The Church should declare to the world and teach its members that abortion should never be used as a convenience or a means of birth control. 7. The Church should actively oppose the killing of human embryos through the extraction of stem cells for medical research or treatment. 8. The Church should oppose the practice of producing more embryos by in vitro fertilization than would be implanted in utero, which would either be destroyed immediately or stored frozen with the strong practical likelihood of later destruction."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Presbyterians Protecting Life, https://www.ppl.org/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**
Not Available

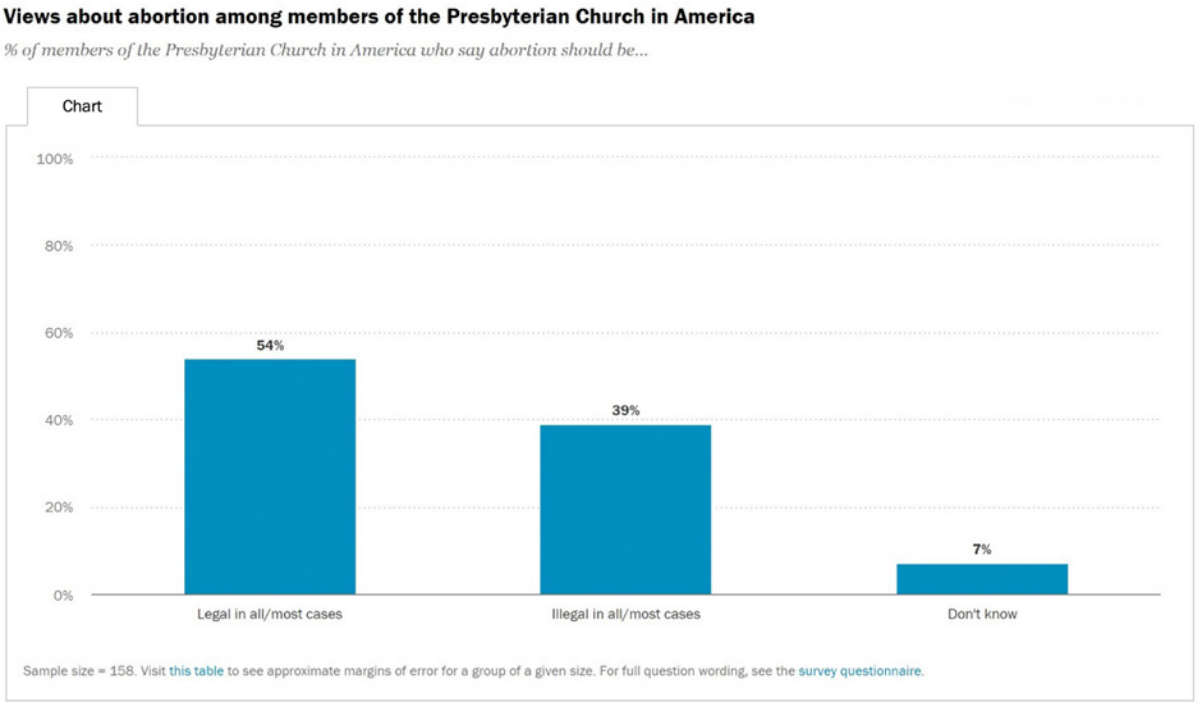
# PRESBYTERIAN, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBp3

"The fundamental task of the church is the proclamation of God's Word as it bears upon individuals and institutions. The Holy Scripture, which is God's Word written, is graciously given as the power of God unto salvation for those who believe. But it is no less the absolute authority given to regulate any institution or individual as regards the created life which only God has the right to give or take away. On this basis we believe the intentional killing of an unborn child is a violation of God's command and authority. Scripture considers such a child a person and thus covered by Divine protection even as a person after birth. Any medical support or historical precedent can only be of secondary authority when we have a clear Word from God on moral questions. Yet as often is the case, a candid evaluation of secondary authorities supports the teaching of Scripture. All truth is God's truth, and any alleged conflict is thus but a misreading of one area of His truth. We are convinced Scripture forbids abortion. The premise of the personhood of the unborn child and the premise of the universal validity of the Sixth Commandment, if true, necessitates the conclusion that abortion is wrong."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/presbyterian-church-in-america/#social-and-political-views

# PRESBYTERIAN, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

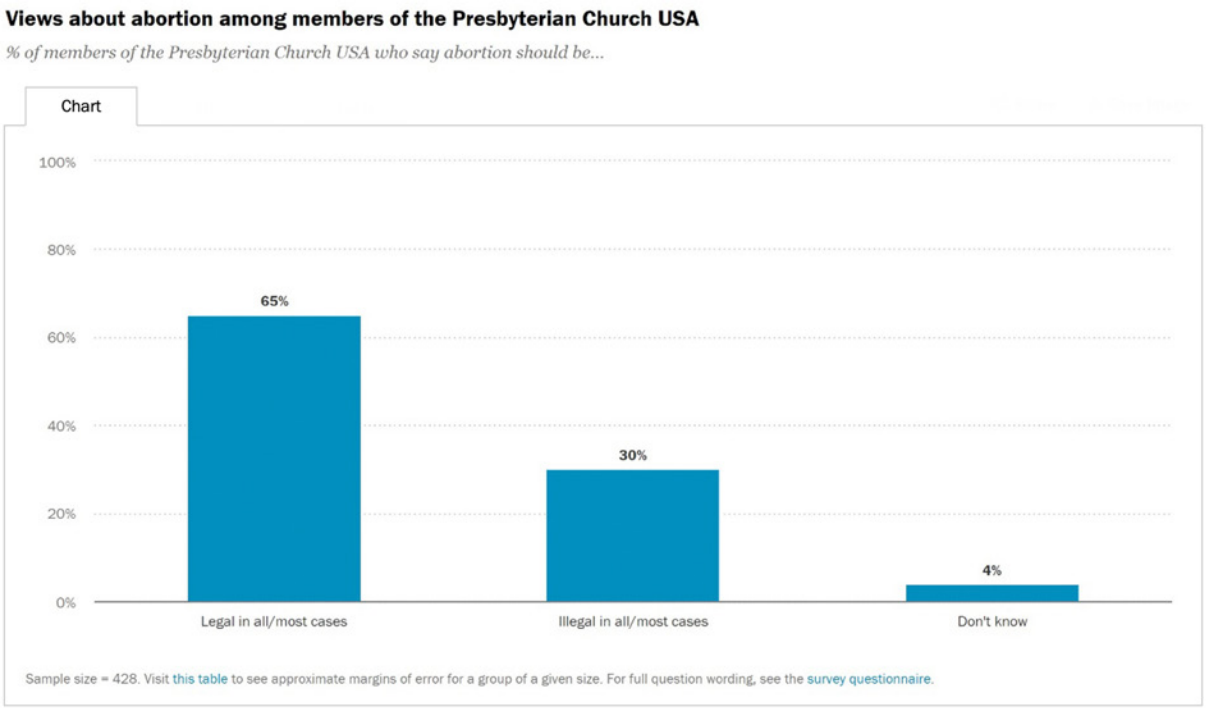
**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** Abortion/Reproductive Choice Issues
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBp4

"When an individual woman faces the decision whether to terminate a pregnancy, the issue is intensely personal, and may manifest itself in ways that do not reflect public rhetoric, or do not fit neatly into medical, legal, or policy guidelines. Humans are empowered by the spirit prayerfully to make significant moral choices, including the choice to continue or end a pregnancy. Human choices should not be made in a moral vacuum, but must be based on Scripture, faith, and Christian ethics. For any choice, we are accountable to God; however, even when we err, God offers to forgive us."

**National related pro-life organizations:**
Presbyterians Protecting Life, https://www.ppl.org/

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/presbyterian-church-usa/#social-and-political-views

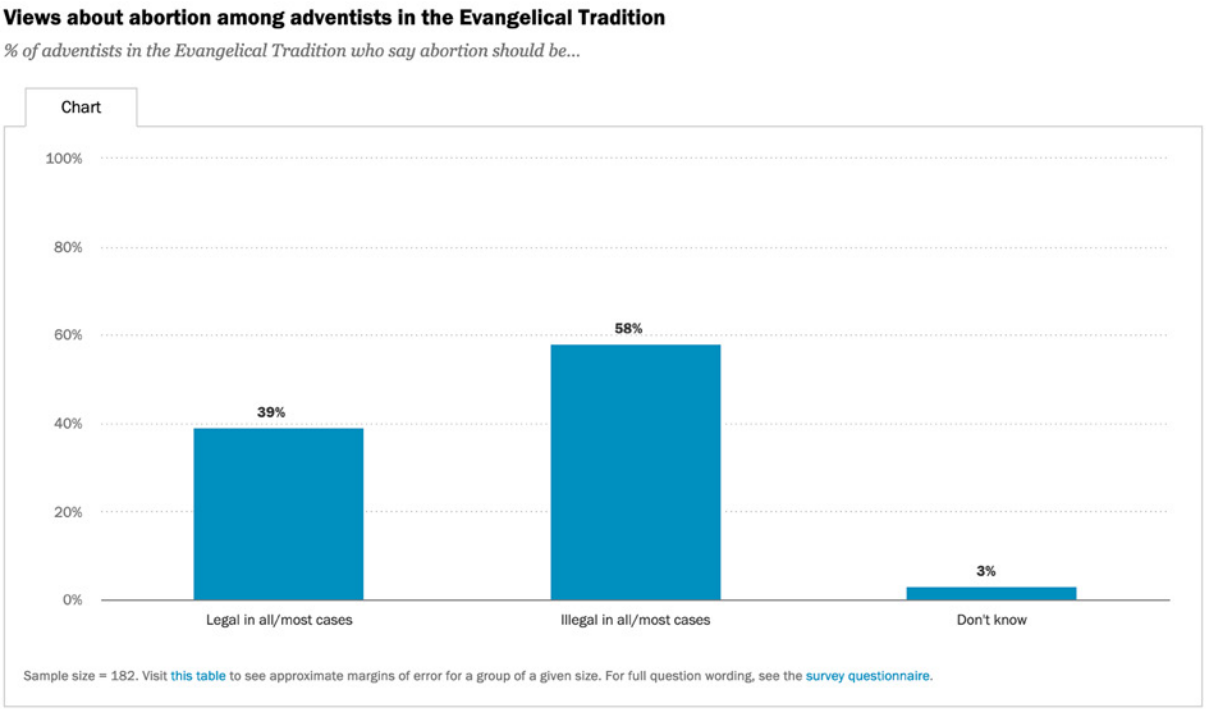
# SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Statement on the Biblical View of Unborn Life and Its Implications for Abortion
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBs1

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church considers abortion out of harmony with God's plan for human life. It affects the unborn, the mother, the father, immediate and extended family members, the church family, and society with long-term consequences for all. Believers aim to trust God and follow His will for them, knowing He has their best interests in mind. While not condoning abortion, the Church and its members are called to follow the example of Jesus, being 'full of grace and truth' (John 1:14), to (1) create an atmosphere of true love and provide grace-filled, biblical pastoral care and loving support to those facing difficult decisions regarding abortion; (2) enlist the help of well-functioning and committed families and educate them to provide care for struggling individuals, couples, and families; (3) encourage church members to open their homes to those in need, including single parents, parentless children, and adoptive or foster care children; (4) care deeply for and support in various ways pregnant women who decide to keep their unborn children; and (5) provide emotional and spiritual support to those who have aborted a child for various reasons or were forced to have an abortion and may be hurting physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 5.10.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-family/adventist-family-evangelical-trad/#social-and-political-views

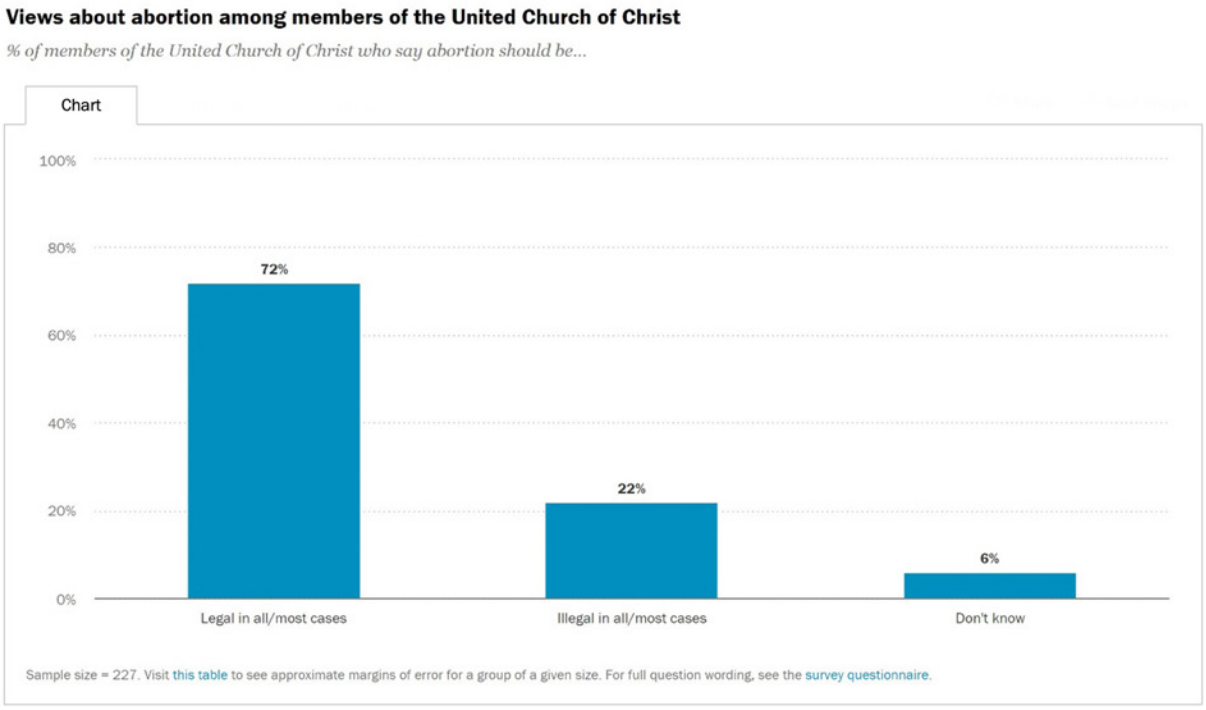
# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Life-affirming? NO**

**Position statement:** Reproductive Justice
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBu1

"After the Supreme Court decision in 1972, *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion in the U.S., the UCC has joined with other faith groups to protect women's equal and fair access to abortion and family planning which have been under attack consistently."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**




Pew Research, 2014; accessed 3.4.21
https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-denomination/united-church-of-christ/#social-and-political-views

# WESLEYAN CHURCH

**Life-affirming? YES**

**Position statement:** Sanctity of Life
**Location:** tinyurl.com/HerPLANxBw1

"We believe that abortion is the taking of human life; therefore, society brings grave danger to itself by permitting abortion on demand, and thus treating God-given life so lightly. We call our members to oppose this social evil with great vigor. However, we reject the use of violence as a means of bringing about this needed change in society. Except in the case of risk to the life of the mother, The Wesleyan Church stands firm against the evil of abortion—both the personal evil of abortion by any individual among us and the worldwide social evil of abortion, which we believe must someday end. Until that day, we will instruct our people to avoid this sin personally, and call them to the work of enlightening a blind culture, as we once did with the sin of slavery (1996 General Conference)."

**Percentage of members who agree with this stance:**
Not Available

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To view Pathways to Life online with easily accessible hyperlinks, go to herplan.org, or use QR code:

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| Ability Ministry | 6B |
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| Life Perspectives | 6C |
| Life Without Limbs | 6A |
| Lifeline Children's Services | 1C, 7B (x2), 7C (x2) |
| Lifesong for Orphans | 7B |
| Live Action | 2C, App A |

# ALPHABETICAL BY MODEL OR NAME


| ORGANIZATION | SECTION |
|---|---|
| Love Life | 1B |
| Love to Know | 6B |
| Lullaby of Hope | 6A |
| Mama Scholar | 3B |
| McIntosh, Jen | 6B |
| Merck | 5B |
| Mercy Multiplied | 5B |
| MiraVia | 3B |
| Mommies of an Angel | 6A |
| Moore, Russell | 7C |
| Morning Center | 2B |
| National Down Syndrome Adoption Network | 6A |
| National Library of Medicine | 5C |
| National Maternity Housing Coalition | 4B |
| New Start for Single Moms | 1B |
| New York Times | 5C |
| National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) | 1B |
| North American Mission Board | 7B |
| Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep | 6B (x2) |
| Pregnancy Care Center, Springfield MO | 1A, 4A |
| Pro-Life Action League | 1A |
| Promise 686 | 7B |
| Psalm 139 Project | 1A |
| Purcellville Baptist Church | 7B |
| Re:generation | 5B |
| Restoration 1:99 | 5A |
| RightNow Media | 7B |
| Roundup app | 1A |
| Saddleback Church | 2B |
| Sage, Melanie Dawn | 7A |
| St. Vincent de Paul | 3B. 4B |
| Save the Storks | 1C |
| Send Relief | 7C (x3) |
| Sidewalk Advocates for Life | 1B |
| South Carolina Dept. of Health & Environmental Control | 2B |
| Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children | 6A |
| Stakeholder Health Magazine | 4B |
| Stanek, Jill | 6C |
| Strickland, Darby | 5C |
| Students for Life of America | 3A |
| Sullivan, Nora | 6C |
| Support after Abortion | 5B |
| Survivor Made | 5A |
| Teen Mother Choices International | 1A |
| The Arlington Catholic Herald | 2C |
| The Atlantic | 6A |
| The Balance | 7B |
| The Life of a Single Mom | 1B |
| The National Catholic Bioethics Center | 2C (x2), 6C |
| The Refinery of Bainbridge | 3A |
| The Samaritan Women Institute for Shelter Care | 5B, 5C (x2) |
| The Tears Foundation | 6B |
| The Wesleyan Church | 7A |
| Time Magazine | 5C, 6A |
| Tiny Treasures | 6B |
| U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) | 1C, 4C 5C (x4), 7C |
| U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services | 5C |
| Vujicic, Nick | 6A |
| Walking with Moms in Need (x2) | 1A |
| Willow Creek Community Church | 3B, 4B |
| YMCA | 7B |
| You Made Me Mom | 6B |

# C CHRONOLOGICAL BY SECTION, SUBSECTION

| SECTION | ORGANIZATION |
|---|---|
| 1A | Choose Life Marketing |
| 1A | Embrace Grace |
| 1A | Focus on the Family |
| 1A | Heritage House |
| 1A | Knights of Columbus |
| 1A | Pregnancy Care Center, Springfield MO |
| 1A | Pro-Life Action League |
| 1A | Psalm 139 Project |
| 1A | Roundup app |
| 1A | Teen Mother Choices International |
| 1A (x2) | Walking with Moms in Need |
| 1B | 40 Days for Life |
| 1B | Baylor University |
| 1B | Care Net |
| 1B | Coweta Pregnancy Services |
| 1B | Embrace Grace |
| 1B | Embrace Life |
| 1B | Equal Rights Institute |
| 1B | Gabriel Project - Catholic Diocese of Arlington |
| 1B | Heartbeat International |
| 1B | Love Life |
| 1B | New Start for Single Moms |
| 1B | National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) |
| 1B | Sidewalk Advocates for Life |
| 1B | The Life of a Single Mom |
| 1C | And Then There Were None |
| 1C | Anglicans for Life |
| 1C | Care Net |
| 1C | Focus on the Family |
| 1C | Heartbeat International |
| 1C | Lifeline Children's Services |
| 1C | Save the Storks |
| 1C | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) |
| 2B | Church Health |
| 2B | Community Foundation of NW MS |
| 2B | Morning Center |
| 2B | Saddleback Church |
| 2B | South Carolina Dept. of Health & Environmental Control |
| 2C | Abortion Pill Risks |
| 2C | Catholic Medical Association |
| 2C | Christian Medical and Dental Association |
| 2C | Heartbeat International |
| 2C | Live Action |
| 2C | The Arlington Catholic Herald |
| 2C (x2) | Amer. Assoc. of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG) |
| 2C (x2) | The National Catholic Bioethics Center |
| 3A | Students for Life of America |
| 3A | The Refinery of Bainbridge |
| 3B | Financial Peace University |
| 3B | Mama Scholar |
| 3B | MiraVia |
| 3B | St. Vincent de Paul |
| 3B | Willow Creek Community Church |
| 3B (x2) | Christian Women's Job Corps |
| 3C | Christianity Today |
| 3C | For Every Mom |
| 4A | Pregnancy Care Center, Springfield MO |
| 4B | American Academy of Pediatrics |
| 4B | Bridge of Hope |
| 4B | Bridge the Gap Ministries |
| 4B | Christian Legal Aid |
| 4B | Citygate Network |
| 4B | Community of Christ |
| 4B | Congressional Research Service |
| 4B | Family Promise |
| 4B | Food Bank of the Rockies |
| 4B | National Maternity Housing Coalition |
| 4B | St. Vincent de Paul |
| 4B | Stakeholder Health Magazine |
| 4B | Willow Creek Community Church |
| 4C | Focus on the Family |
| 4C | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) |
| 5A | Beauty for Ashes Women and Children's Home |
| 5A | Eden Herbal Products |
| 5A | House of Cherith's Free Fab'rik |
| 5A | Restoration 1:99 |
| 5A | Survivor Made |
| 5B | Abuse Recovery Ministry & Services |

# C

## CHRONOLOGICAL BY SECTION, SUBSECTION

| SECTION | ORGANIZATION |
|---|---|
| 5B | Care Net |
| 5B | Catholics for Family Peace |
| 5B | Celebrate Recovery |
| 5B | Designed 2 Connect |
| 5B | First Baptist Church Woodstock Counseling |
| 5B | House of Cherith |
| 5B | Merck |
| 5B | Mercy Multiplied |
| 5B | Re:generation |
| 5B | Support after Abortion |
| 5B | The Samaritan Women Institute for Shelter Care |
| 5C | Alcorn, Randy |
| 5C | Anglicans for Life |
| 5C | Catholics for Family Peace |
| 5C | Charlotte Lozier Institute |
| 5C | Christian Leader Learning |
| 5C | National Library of Medicine |
| 5C | New York Times |
| 5C | Strickland, Darby |
| 5C | Time Magazine |
| 5C | U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services |
| 5C (x2) | Elliot Institute |
| 5C (x2) | Heartbeat International |
| 5C (x2) | The Samaritan Women Institute for Shelter Care |
| 5C (x4) | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) |
| 6A | Alcorn, Randy |
| 6A | Be Not Afraid |
| 6A | Carmen's Miracle Workers |
| 6A | Carrying to Term |
| 6A | Healthline |
| 6A | Hope Mommies Box |
| 6A | Joni & Friends |
| 6A | Life Without Limbs |
| 6A | Lullaby of Hope |
| 6A | Mommies of an Angel |
| 6A | National Down Syndrome Adoption Network |
| 6A | Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children |
| 6A | The Atlantic |
| 6A | Time Magazine |
| 6A | Vujicic, Nick |
| 6B | Ability Ministry |
| 6B | Angel Pics Project |
| 6B | Divine Mercy Care |
| 6B | Elizabeth Ministry International |
| 6B | Garden of Innocence |
| 6B | Heaven's Gain Ministries |
| 6B | Love to Know |
| 6B | McIntosh, Jen |
| 6B | The Tears Foundation |
| 6B | Tiny Treasures |
| 6B | You Made Me Mom |
| 6B (x2) | Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep |
| 6C | Amer. Assoc. of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG) |
| 6C | Archdiocese of Washington |
| 6C | Aultman, Julie M, Ph.D. |
| 6C | Be Not Afraid |
| 6C | Carrying to Term |
| 6C | Catholic Bereavement Doula Program |
| 6C | Catholic Medical Association |
| 6C | Charlotte Lozier Institute |
| 6C | Christian Medical and Dental Association |
| 6C | Life Perspectives |
| 6C | Stanek, Jill |
| 6C | Sullivan, Nora |
| 6C | The National Catholic Bioethics Center |
| 7A | Care Portal |
| 7A | Foster Focus |
| 7A | Sage, Melanie Dawn |
| 7A | The Wesleyan Church |
| 7A (x2) | Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) |
| 7B | A Child's Hope International |
| 7B | America's Kids Belong |
| 7B | Baptist Children's Village |
| 7B | ChildrensMinistry.com |
| 7B | Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) |
| 7B | Church Executive |
| 7B | Communio |
| 7B | Every Mother's Advocate |
| 7B | Harbor Families |
| 7B | Lead to Healing |
| 7B | Lifesong for Orphans |

# C

## CHRONOLOGICAL BY SECTION, SUBSECTION

| SECTION | ORGANIZATION |
|---|---|
| 7B | North American Mission Board |
| 7B | Promise 686 |
| 7B | Purcellville Baptist Church |
| 7B | RightNow Media |
| 7B | The Balance |
| 7B | YMCA |
| 7B (x2) | Lifeline Children's Services |
| 7C | Backyard Orphans |
| 7C | Fostering Hope |
| 7C | Moore, Russell |
| 7C | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) |
| 7C (x2) | Johnson, Jason |
| 7C (x2) | Lifeline Children's Services |
| 7C (x3) | Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) |
| 7C (x3) | Send Relief |
| App A | Live Action |

Her
PLAN
PREGNANCY & LIFE
ASSISTANCE NETWORK
I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do; I will not abandon them.
– Isaiah 42:16
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