

1 The Denominational Concerns Task Force (DCTF) proposes that the following  
2 declaration be adopted by the Beaver-Butler Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church  
3 (U.S.A.):  
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### 5 **Declaration on Abortion**

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7 *This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life*  
8 *and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may*  
9 *live... Deuteronomy 30:19*

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11 *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I*  
12 *know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret*  
13 *place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth your eyes saw my*  
14 *unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of*  
15 *them came to be. Psalm 139:14-16*

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17 *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I*  
18 *appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5*

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20 The Heidelberg Catechism affirms: *That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—*  
21 *not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood*  
22 *has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the*  
23 *devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair*  
24 *can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.*  
25 *Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and he makes me*  
26 *wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

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28 The Westminster Shorter Catechism states: *The Sixth Commandment forbiddeth the*  
29 *taking of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth*  
30 *thereunto. (Question 69)*

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32 The Westminster Larger Catechism asserts: *The duties required in the Sixth*  
33 *Commandment are: all careful studies and lawful endeavors, to preserve the live of*  
34 *ourselves and others, by resisting all...practices, which tend to the unjust taking away*  
35 *the life of any.*

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37 Believing that Scripture affirms the dignity and sanctity of all human life, and believing  
38 that the church of Jesus Christ must preserve life through lawful endeavor and personal  
39 and corporate practice, the Beaver Butler Presbytery encourages its churches:

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  1. To pray and work for the elimination of those circumstances that may cause  
42 some persons to consider abortion as a normative solution to a crisis pregnancy.  
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  2. To serve as supportive and helping communities to women and men who decide  
44 to carry a crisis pregnancy to full term and to those who parent alone as a result  
45 of a crisis pregnancy.  
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3. To provide appropriate resources and support for those who choose to place a child for adoption and to those who seek to adopt children or become foster families.
  4. To help men involved in crisis pregnancies accept their responsibility as fathers for the care of the children resulting from those pregnancies.
  5. To stand against public policies that allow abortion to be used as a means of birth control or for the convenience of the mothers, fathers, or others involved in the pregnancy.
  6. To acknowledge those rare cases when abortion may become necessary in order to preserve the life of the mother.
  7. To provide pastoral counsel, care and prayerful discernment in cases of rape or incest, or when the child may not be viable outside of the womb.
  8. To serve as a healing community to those who have experienced physical, emotional or spiritual harm as the result of an abortion.
  9. To create an environment where persons are free to share their experiences with abortion.
  10. To offer classes, studies and discussions where abortion and related issues can be dealt with openly, honestly and from a Biblical perspective.
  11. To explore all means by which the Beaver-Butler Presbytery and/or our member congregations may express to our denomination our concerns regarding abortion, including, but not limited to:
    - Overtures and resolutions to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.
    - The use of the “relief of conscience” provision of the medical plan of the Board of Pensions.
    - Designating mission giving so as to deny support to those denominational agencies and entities that advocate policies and promote programs that are contrary to the affirmation of life contained in this declaration.
  12. To acknowledge that all persons stand in constant need of God’s forgiveness and mercy. As the church we seek to be living “epistles” following the model of Christ who said, *Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.* (John 8:11)