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6 **CONSTITUTION: SANCTITY OF LIFE**

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8 Whereas, The 2022 General Conference appointed a Sanctity of Life Memorial Study  
9 Committee to review Memorial 53, Constitution: The Sanctity of Life;

10 Whereas, The decision of the Sanctity of Life Memorial Study Committee is to not  
11 recommend Memorial 53 in its original and amended forms;

12 Whereas, The committee believes *Discipline* paragraphs 265:12 and 410:11 need to be  
13 amended in light of The Wesleyan Church's strong stance on the sanctity of life;

14 *Resolved*, That *Discipline* paragraph **265:12** be revised:

15 (12) Respect **and advocate for the sanctity of human life, from conception**  
16 **to natural death, and** the inherent individual rights of all persons, regardless of  
17 race, color, or sex, **ability, or socio-economic status.**

18 *Gen. 1:27; Exo. 20:13; Lev. 19:13; Job 31:1; Psa. 139:13; Prov. 23:22; Jer.*  
19 *1:5; Hab. 2:15; 1 Cor. 5:9-10, 8:13, 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Phil. 1:16-17; 1 Tim. 1:10,*  
20 *5:18, 21;*

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22 So that *Discipline* paragraph **265:12** now reads:

23 (12) Respect and advocate for the sanctity of human life, from conception  
24 to natural death, and the inherent individual rights of all persons, regardless of  
25 race, color, or sex, ability, or socio-economic status.

26 *Gen. 1:27; Exo. 20:13; Lev. 19:13; Job 31:1; Psa. 139:13; Prov. 23:22;*  
27 *Jer. 1:5; Hab. 2:15; 1 Cor. 5:9-10, 8:13, 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Phil. 1:16-17; 1 Tim.*  
28 *1:10, 5:18, 21;*

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30 *Resolved*, That *Discipline* paragraph **410:11** be revised:

31 (11) **Abortion.** The Wesleyan Church seeks to **recognize and acknowledge,**  
32 **preserve, and advocate for** the sanctity of human life from conception to natural  
33 death and, thus, is opposed to ~~the use of~~ induced abortion. **Concurrently, it aims**  
34 **to proclaim a message of grace, forgiveness, and healing in Christ for both**  
35 **women and men who have previously had or been involved in an abortion and**  
36 **those currently experiencing unplanned pregnancy. It acknowledges that**  
37 **pregnancies result from a wide range of situations, from God-honoring**  
38 **marriages to violent victimization, and seeks to provide holistic, loving care that**  
39 **is sensitive to the unique needs of each woman and baby. It recognizes that**  
40 **pregnancy is inherently strenuous, and sometimes dangerous, to the health of**  
41 **the mother. Medical advances provide increasing treatment options for many**  
42 **conditions, and every effort should be made to preserve the lives of both mother**  
43 **and unborn child insofar as medically possible. The Wesleyan Church urges its**  
44 **members to stay up to date on issues surrounding abortion in order to wisely**  
45 **and prayerfully discern and advocate for complex legislative, social and medical**  
46 **decisions that fervently prioritize the sanctity of all human life while offering**  
47 **personalized support for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the entire**  
48 **family. However, it recognizes that there may be rare pregnancies where there**  
49 **are grave medical conditions threatening the life of the mother, which could**  
50 **raise a serious question about taking the life of the unborn child. In such a case,**

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~~a decision should be made only after very prayerful consideration following medical and spiritual counseling. The Wesleyan Church encourages its members to become informed about the abortion issue and to become actively involved locally and nationally in the preparation and passage of appropriate legislation guaranteeing protection of life under law to unborn children.~~

So that *Discipline* paragraph **410:11** now reads:

(11) **Abortion.** The Wesleyan Church seeks to acknowledge, preserve, and advocate for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and, thus, is opposed to induced abortion. Concurrently, it aims to proclaim a message of grace, forgiveness, and healing in Christ for both women and men who have previously had or been involved in an abortion and those currently experiencing unplanned pregnancy. It acknowledges that pregnancies result from a wide range of situations, from God-honoring marriages to violent victimization, and seeks to provide holistic, loving care that is sensitive to the unique needs of each woman and baby. It recognizes that pregnancy is inherently strenuous, and sometimes dangerous, to the health of the mother. Medical advances provide increasing treatment options for many conditions, and every effort should be made to preserve the lives of both mother and unborn child insofar as medically possible. The Wesleyan Church urges its members to stay up to date on issues surrounding abortion in order to wisely and prayerfully discern and advocate for complex legislative, social and medical decisions that fervently prioritize the sanctity of all human life while offering personalized support for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the entire family.

SANCTITY OF LIFE MEMORIAL STUDY COMMITTEE

15<sup>th</sup> General Conference

Adopted                       Not Adopted