PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY CHURCH

STATEMENT ON THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

VERSION 2023

GOD'S INTENTION: CREATION

Human life is created by God and is good. Since we are uniquely created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and formed by God (Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; Psalm 139:13–16), we hold to the sanctity of all human life (Genesis 9:6; Matthew 6:26) and affirm that human life begins at conception (Psalm 139:13–16; Jeremiah 1:4–5). It also lasts beyond death into eternity (John 5:28–29; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52; 2 Corinthians 5:8–10). God gives life and breath to everyone (Acts 17:25), commanding us to value equally the dignity of every individual life in its entirety, which compels us to love and have compassion for all peoples of the world (2 Corinthians 5:14–15).

OUR DISTORTION: FALL

Sin affects every aspect of human life (Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 5:12), causing us to diminish and devalue life (Amos 2:6–7; James 2:1–4; Galatians 5:14–15). God exposes and condemns these distortions through the life-affirming nature of the Law, as seen in the Ten Commandments that prohibit life-denying practices (Exodus 20:1–17). By rejecting the truth of God's Word, the degradation of human life and dehumanizing practices ensues (e.g., abortion, racism, injustice, abuse, suicide, human trafficking, genocide, murder, and euthanasia). Since each person is made in the image of God, we grieve all such practices. True repentance must begin with godly grief: recognizing and rejecting mankind's rebellion against God and all God has called good, right, and true. (2 Corinthians 7:10)

OUR REDEMPTION: JESUS CHRIST

Our life-giving mission is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed to the whole creation (2 Corinthians 5:20; James 1:27). As our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, Jesus has brought us new and abundant life (John 3:3, 10:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17), by forgiving our sins and giving us new life in Him. This gift of grace transforms our distorted view of human life (2 Corinthians 5:16; Romans 12:2). We affirm the dignity of all people, especially the vulnerable and overlooked (e.g., the unborn, foreigners, the mentally ill, the poor, the elderly, widows, orphans, and the incarcerated (Exodus 23:9; Matthew 25:36, 40; James 1:27, 2:1–4; Hebrews 13:3). As the Church, we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ by making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20), and we express His love by caring for people (e.g., disaster relief, refugee care, assistance for individuals with disabilities, foster care and adoption, community development, and elder care). At every opportunity, we seek to be peacemakers in our world (Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18), offering the peace and reconciliation the Lord Jesus Christ purchased for us on the cross (Ephesians 2:13-21).

We advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8–9; Matthew 25:45), protecting and honoring all human life. We affirm the value of every person from the womb to the end of earthly life, without exception. Therefore, the gift of life should be cherished and not taken prematurely. For the terminally ill, the ability to extend life artificially does not create a moral imperative to extend it indefinitely. Such decisions call for discernment as well as trust in the providence of our God. Ultimately, God is the giver of life and numbers our days (Deuteronomy 32:39; Psalm 139:16; Acts 17:25–26).

OUR HOPE: CONSUMMATION

Our hope for final victory over death is the Lord Jesus Christ, who has promised consummate triumph over all death. Since Jesus rose from the dead and will return to restore all righteousness (Matthew 24:30; Titus 2:13–14), all will rise bodily from the dead, and those who trust in Christ will live with Him forever (John 5:28–29; 1 Corinthians 15:20–24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18). Life, not death, will ultimately prevail, and Jesus will wipe away every tear from our eyes (Revelation 21:4), fully vindicating the sanctity of life (Revelation 22:1–5).