

2026 Great Lakes Annual Conference Legislation



ID: RES-01

Title: Replace ¶ 302.3 of the BDD

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Type: Resolution

Rationale (if provided)

1. Our Book of Discipline allows abortions "in the cases of tragic conflicts of life against life when the well-being of the mother and the child are at stake."
2. There are nearly one million abortions annually in the United States, and 73 million worldwide. Every one of them could be justified by the language in our BOD, as a "tragic" situation, or one where the mother's "well-being" is at stake. From situations where the doctor said the fetus' abnormalities means he/she will die within a month of birth, to a mother with an abusive partner or a partner who says he will leave unless she aborts, to a desperate, impoverished mother of 5 who cannot feed the children she already has, or even the situations where an unplanned pregnancy will interfere with a mother's college or career plans, someone will justify that abortion because it is a "tragic" situation, and contrary to the mother's well-being.
3. Are there difficult situations that may lead a pregnant woman to seek an abortion? Absolutely. How should the church respond to those situations--offer the killing of an innocent human being as a solution? No! Instead we must recognize the humanity and value of both mother and child, and seek to love and protect them both. How can a Christian say abortion is ok just because it would solve a difficult life problem?
4. If we present abortion as a legitimate choice, even in limited circumstances, we participate in a great moral evil.
5. Paragraph 302.1 of our BOD states that "(w)e believe that all persons.....have been made in the image of God..." Scripture is clear that intentionally killing an innocent image bearer of God is a grievous sin. There is no serious case to be made otherwise. It is always wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being.
6. Abortion hollows out marriages and families, undermines the rule of law, and turns healers into executioners. "I have never encountered more brokenness in the world than through abortion. It is an evil that breaks everything it touches. I've seen pictures of the broken bodies of children, cried with women who wished they could turn back time, and observed the grief of siblings who knew someone is missing." Michigan prolife worker.
7. In December of 2020, the Wesleyan Covenant Association published a Draft Book of Doctrines and Disciplines for a New Methodist Church. Much of its language was adopted by the GMC. It addressed abortion in the 2d subparagraph of Paragraph 302 as follows: "We believe that life is a holy gift of God whose beginnings and endings are set by God, and that it is the particular duty of believers to protect those who are powerless to protect themselves, including the unborn. We believe human life begins at conception and abortion ends a human life. (emphasis added). Unfortunately this language was not adopted by the GMC. Instead, we chose to say we oppose

abortion "EXCEPT IN THE CASES OF TRAGIC CONFLICTS OF LIFE AGAINST LIFE WHEN THE WELL BEING OF THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD ARE AT STAKE." (emphasis added). This is very close to the language widely adhered to by mainline protestant denominations, including the United Methodist Church (until the General Conference of 2024), and is effectively prochoice.

8. The Global Methodist Church is a new denomination. Let's start as a 100% prolife church. Let's choose to follow the gospel, the Lord of Life, and not the culture. What kind of church are we if we won't even protect our own children? Why choose death?

9. "The church is not a group of people groping for a philosophy of life congenial to modern conditions, but a living body already being shaped by the apostolic teaching. Holding steady to that teaching is a principal mark of the authenticity of the church." Classic Christianity by Thomas Oden, p. 752.

1 Be it resolved by the Great Lakes Annual Conference that ¶ 302.3 of the *Book of Doctrines and*
2 *Discipline* should be stricken in its entirety and replaced by the following:

3 ¶ 302.3. ~~The sacredness of all life compels us to resist the practice of abortion except in the cases~~
4 ~~of tragic conflicts of life against life when the well-being of the mother and the child are at stake.~~
5 ~~We do not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection, and we call upon all~~
6 ~~Christians as Disciples of the Lord of Life to prayerfully consider how we can support those women~~
7 ~~facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel or resources. (Ex. 22:22-23; Ps.~~
8 ~~139:13-16; James 1:27)."~~

9 Abortion, because it intentionally takes an innocent human life sacred to God, is always an immoral
10 act that we oppose in all situations. We call upon all Christians as disciples of the Lord of Life to
11 prayerfully consider how we can support those women facing unintended pregnancies without
12 care, counsel or resources. We also call upon the Church to develop resources and programs to
13 support those who chose abortion in the past, or who are affected by past abortions. (Ex. 22:22-
14 23; Ps. 139:13-16; Luke 1:39-44; James 1:27).