

MAY 2010

Life Issues before the 219th General Assembly



Did you know you can read all of the business coming to the GA at pc-biz.org? PPL encourages you to read the business on life issues coming to this assembly. If you will be at GA in Minneapolis, contact PPL about giving testimony on life issues. Anyone can testify in committee hearings.

Item 10-08 would make abortion a global "right."

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns is asking the GA to direct the Office of the Stated Clerk to send a letter to the President of the United States and to Congress calling on the US government to ratify, without reservations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

PPL recommends disapproval. CEDAW would override all laws restricting abortion by national and state governments. All parental permission and spousal notification laws would be gone. Medical providers would be required to perform abortion services or refer for abortion. Abortion would be codified as a global 'human right,' birth control would be promoted, and comprehensive sex education would be mandatory for minors.

CEDAW text.

Also see Rec. #24

Item 11-07 "On Living a Human Life Before God"

This study paper comes as a response to a GA 2000 overture on gun control that asked for an update of the 1981 paper, "On the Nature and Value of Human Life." The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) has taken 10 years to respond. The resulting paper will not bring moral clarity to the church on the nature and value of human life or the issues that threaten life.

The 1981 paper, although flawed, attempted to provide an ethical framework from Scripture for making decisions when human life is threatened. ACSWP's assignment was to "update and re-issue" the original paper. This study paper promotes a utilitarian view of the value of human beings: We are valued because we are blessed by God and with each blessing he gives us responsibility. The paper says that we are created in God's own image, but treats that as a 'blessing' rather than the very core of our identity and nature. The paper lifts up the responsibility of man to care for the earth and for one another, but misses the joyful news that (in spite of our total depravity) we are so valued by God that he has purchased our adoption with the shed blood of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten son.

PPL recommends disapproval of the recommendations to approve and distribute this paper and to spend more money in development of further resources and papers. Ten years is enough!

Related Links:

["ACSWP Paper on human life misses the JOY,"](#) blog by Marie Bowen.

["The Being and Nature of the Unborn Child,"](#) by Thomas Torrance.

Advocacy for women and their unborn children

PPL urges commissioners to support [Items 19-03](#) which asks the GA to take a stand against violence toward pregnant women that threatens both them and their unborn children. [Item 19-04](#) urges the GA to take a stand against forced or coerced abortions. Studies indicate that 64% of women who have abortions felt pressured in some way by another person to have the abortion. Women should be free to choose life for their babies!

Related article in [February PPL MONTHLY](#).

Item 16-03 Adds a John Calvin quote to W-2.3008b

Adding the words "and God pronounces that he adopts our infants as his children, before they are born," would expand the church's understanding of God's love for us from our tiniest beginnings. It would provide comfort to parents who have lost children through miscarriage or stillbirth.

We addressed this overture more fully in our [April PPL MONTHLY](#).

PPL commends Item 12-13 on marriage.

The Minority Report of the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage provides a clear, biblical statement on marriage that will help the church.

Related resources: [Theology Matters "In Defense of Marriage,"](#) Alan Wisdom.

Prayer for 219th GA

As a commissioner to the 219th General Assembly I am more aware than ever before of our dependence on God for godly outcomes to our deliberations in the July 3-10 meeting of the GA in Minneapolis, MN. Members of my home church will be praying with me for the presence of God in wisdom and power to be among us. I urge you to join in praying for all the participants of this important meeting of the church. Two groups will be focusing on prayer before and during the Assembly. I hope you will join them.

[The Biblical Presbyterians Network](#) has issued a [call to prayer](#) and fasting for the month of June in preparation for GA.

[Presbyterian Elders in Prayer](#) has posted a [40 day prayer guide](#) on their website which begins May 23rd.

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Coming to GA in Minneapolis?

Please come to our luncheon events, visit our exhibit booth, and make yourself at home in our hospitality suite!

A pro-life presence at General Assembly, bringing witness to Biblical truth on life issues and offering information and encouragement to commissioners, advisory delegates, and overture advocates.

Come to our
PPL Hospitality Suite
at the
Hyatt Regency
and find a warm welcome
light refreshment &
encouraging friends

Visit the
PPL Exhibit Booth (310-12)
For Information and
Ministry resources on
Abortion, Euthanasia,
Sexuality, Stem Cells
and More.

Join us for Lunch at two PPL Sponsored Events

Luncheon with the Rev. Dr. David D. Swanson
What About Abortion?
How should the church respond?
Sunday, July 4
12-1:30pm
Mnpls Ballroom EFG
Hilton Minneapolis
1001 Marquette Ave
\$30/luncheon
Tickets available at the OGA booth and at the PPL booth, #310
Presentation is FREE
Presbyterians Pro-Life
3942 Middle Rd. • Allison Park, PA 15101 • www.PPL.org

WOMEN of the BIBLE
A Dramatic Presentation by Anita Gutschick
Luncheon Drama
Tuesday, July 6 - 12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Minneapolis Ballroom EFG
Hilton Minneapolis • 1001 Marquette Avenue
Discover through the voices of Elizabeth, Rebekah and Leah how very precious you are to God!
Luncheon Admission is \$30
PRESENTATION IS FREE!
Tickets available at the OGA booth and at the PPL booth, #310
NOW AVAILABLE! *Pregnant With Promise*
In this Bible study, we see that the biblical stories of pregnant women hold wonderful surprises, promise, and lessons for men and women. Available at this luncheon event and at the PPL booth, #310 in the Exhibit Hall.
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