

## Pro-Life Black Pastors Oppose President Obama's Healthcare Plan

By Christian Newswire, Monday, September 28, 2009

WASHINGTON, /Christian Newswire/—The following statement is in response to the recent public endorsement of President Barack Obama's healthcare plan by Bishops from the "Church of God in Christ," led by Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr.

This statement is made by Black ministers and pastors actively involved in the Pro-life Movement, including the chair of the National Black Pro Life Congress, the national director of L.E.A.R.N Inc. (Life Education and Resource Network), and the executive director of the Network of Politically Active Christians. They pastor congregations in California, Texas, North Carolina, Michigan and Washington, D.C.

The Black Pro-life Movement is outraged by the recent endorsement of this administration's health care proposal by some clergy of the Church of God in Christ.

As God-fearing individuals we encourage COGIC leaders to read and evaluate the President's plan, including the Capps-Waxman Amendment, rather than merely parroting his words. If unborn children cannot depend on the Church to carefully examine this bill to see if their lives will be protected from state-funded genocide, on whom can they depend?

Such an endorsement does not consider the devastating impact abortion is having in the black community. Over 1,400 black babies each day are lynched out of their mothers' wombs. Clearly, this rate of prenatal murder in our community outpaces death by heart disease, diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS and violent crime combined.

We find it troubling that this endorsement does not acknowledge the deliberate targeting of the black community by Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry, nor decry the mental and physiological impact abortion is having on black women across America.

We recommend in the strongest terms possible that this endorsement be withdrawn until such time that the Obama administration adds language to the health care proposal that

specifically prohibits taxpayer funded abortions.

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## Abortion and the Gospel

By Rev. Paul Stallworth, United Methodist Church

Abortion is the public issue, in American society, that stubbornly refuses to go away....

So, how is The United Methodist Church dealing with the abortion issue at the present time? Two main strategies seem to have emerged. The first and most common strategy is silence.

Many United Methodist leaders prefer to ignore the issue. Pleased with the Obama Administration and its politics, some simply do not bring it up. Fearful of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. They assert their main concern is preaching the Gospel and making disciples of Jesus Christ. But that is exactly what many church leaders in Germany, during the Third Reich, said, as they remained silent and inactive about the plight of the European Jews.

A second strategy is emerging. Call it the strategy of bridge building. Some prominent United Methodists want to reach out to all sides of the abortion controversy. So they engage in conversation with those on the pro-choice side. Then they speak with those on the pro-life side. In doing so, they strive to reach a middle ground that will please the greatest number of church members. However, there is a problem with the bridge-building strategy: the bridge builders tend not to listen to the Church's Great Tradition, the Church's historic faith, which through the

ages has been consistently protective of the unborn child and mother.

The bridge builders, it seems, are so busy reaching out to both sides, so busy listening to both sides, so busy searching for compromises and common ground, that they forget the teaching office of the Church and what should be regularly taught. So they actually forget about the truth of Church teaching. Using silence, an edited Gospel, or well intentioned bridge building—all of which avoid the truth about life and abortion—might be understood as behavior unbecoming of the clergy and the bishops.

IN TIME: The time is coming when The United Methodist Church—her bishops, clergy, and laity—will rediscover that the Gospel is the Gospel of Life. There is no other true Gospel than the Gospel of Life. The Gospel of Life is for the weakest, the least significant, the helpless, among us. That Gospel places obligations on the articulate to speak for the voiceless, on the strong to protect the weak, on the well placed to aid the vulnerable. That Gospel inspires the willingness to act for the sake of the little one in the womb and for the sake of his/her mother.



Rev. Stallworth



# Uniting for Life

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### National Pro-Life Religious Council

The National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) is a Christian coalition which acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and works to encourage every Christian denomination to affirm and witness to the biblical standard of the value, dignity and sanctity of human life, and to foster ministry to those vulnerable to the violence of abortion or euthanasia.

Anglicans for Life

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)

International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church (CEC for Life)

Life Education and Resource Network (LEARN)

Lutherans for Life (LFL)

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)

National Black Pro-Life Union

National Clergy Council (NCC)

Presbyterians Pro-Life (PPL)

Priests for Life (PFL)

Religious Outreach, National Right to Life Committee

Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality (TUMAS)/Lifewatch

United Friends for Life (UFL), United Church of Christ

## Obama Administration Continues to Hide Federal Funding of Abortion in Health Care Bills

National Right to Life Committee's federal legislative director Douglas Johnson called the Obama administration's efforts to mislead reporters about the abortion funding in the health care reform bills "an ongoing smuggling operation, which if successful will result in funding of abortion on demand by the federal government."

Johnson referred to the comments White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs made twice at press conferences (10/7 and 10/9), repeating to a reporter the discredited claim which Obama made August 20th that the health care plans do not revoke the Hyde Amendment (which prohibits the use of federal taxpayer money for abortions except in the cases of life of the mother, rape or incest). This is blatantly misleading since the health care reform bills create new programs not covered by the Hyde Amendment, and the Hyde Amendment, in any case, needs to be renewed each year in the appropriations bill for Health and Human Services.

In a September 9 speech to Congress, Obama said that "under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions." Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, also told reporters that the President intended to rule out any public funding of abortions. But, in fact, all the health care reform bills, which Obama has ardently supported, include abortion funding.

"Gibbs' statement is one more proof, if any more were needed, that the White House is actively engaged in a political smuggling operation -- an attempt to achieve funding of elective abortion by the federal government, cloaked in smokescreens of contrived language and outright deception. There is no current federal law that would prevent the new programs created by the pending health care bills from paying for abortion on demand -- and the White House knows this full well. Only language written directly into the bills would prevent government funding of abortions -- but such language has been blocked by the Democratic chairmen of five congressional committees, with White House cooperation, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is refusing to allow the House to even vote on adding a true Hyde Amendment to the health care bill," Johnson explained.

The Catholic bishops sent a letter October 8 to Congress repeating what they have said in earlier letters that the Hyde Amendment does not apply to the health care bills and that unless language expressly prohibiting federal funding of abortion is added to the health care bills, they will "vigorously oppose" the bill.

Johnson pointed out that the Capps Amendment to the health care reform bill in the House, H.R. 3200, sets forth guidelines that allow expansive abortion funding.

"Under the Capps Amendment, the Obama Administration would be explicitly authorized to pay for all abortions, from day one, under the big new 'public option' program. This means that a person would not be allowed to enroll in the new government plan unless he or she is willing to pay an additional premium to cover the cost of elective abortions--in effect, an abortion surcharge.

"Indeed, the Capps Amendment explicitly requires that the federal official who runs the program must calculate the total cost of abortions and increase the premium for all enrollees enough to pay for them. The amendment specifies that this surcharge cannot be less than \$12 per enrollee per year, but the amendment does not set an upper limit. Again, this premium specifically for elective abortions is not optional.

"Thus, under the Obama-backed bill, a federal agency would be writing checks to abortionists to pay for elective abortions, with funds drawn on a federal Treasury account. This is government funding of abortion, pure and simple. A vote for H.R.3200 is indeed a vote for government funding of abortion on a huge scale," Johnson concluded.

**Stay informed: The National Right to Life Committee maintains a webpage that provides always-current information on the status of the abortion-related components of the health care bills, with recommendations for action. Check out [www.capwiz.com/nrlc](http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc) today!**



## Join the Largest Prayer Group in History!

Fr. Frank Pavone, President, National Pro-life Religious Council

You are invited to join believers around the world to pray to end abortion, as part of the largest prayer group in history! This prayer group is based online, and is grounded in two websites, which have ongoing prayers that correspond to various times and seasons of the year and to current developments in the pro-life cause.

The basic prayer website for this cause is [www.PrayerCampaign.org](http://www.PrayerCampaign.org). For the last few years, Priests for Life has used this site to promote our "Daily Prayer to End Abortion." This prayer is essentially a commitment to God that we will each do our own part in ending abortion, based on the recognition that nothing claims more lives, and based on the confidence that death has been conquered by the Resurrection of Christ. The prayer is interdenominational in its theology, and the NPRC has its own site for believers to say this same prayer: [www.ProLifePrayerCampaign.org](http://www.ProLifePrayerCampaign.org).

At various seasons of the year, special prayers and novenas are placed on this site in order to link the pro-life theme to those seasons, or to special feast days or current events. For the last several months, for instance, a prayer for God to guide our nation's health care reform debate has been featured.

The second website connected to this "largest prayer group in history" is [www.ProLifePrayers.org](http://www.ProLifePrayers.org). This goes directly to our Facebook cause, "Pray to End Abortion." Many are familiar with Facebook as a means of connecting with friends. But Facebook can also be a rallying point for people to join a cause and to participate in activities related to that cause.

And in this case, the cause is praying to end abortion. Because Facebook is such a powerful way of finding people who have common interests, this cause can easily become the largest prayer group in history. Within a few weeks of starting this cause, we had already rallied **over 30,000 people!** It has been growing by about a thousand a day. Once people are connected with the cause, they stay connected and are updated about various prayer resources that we make available to them for personal, family, Church and organizational use.



Fr. Frank Pavone

So what can you do to help grow the largest prayer group in history for the most important cause of our time, ending abortion? Here are some suggestions:

1. Link to the prayer websites from your website, blog, or social networking site. In particular, have the link on your Church or organization's website.
2. Have the Daily Prayer to End Abortion, or the prayer for a particular season or novena, prayed in Church.
3. Order the prayer card for the Daily Prayer to End Abortion and distribute them in your Church, school or pro-life organization. Include them in mailings. (Contact Priests for Life at 1-888-735-3448.)
4. Publish the prayers, or the link to them, in the Church bulletin.

Let's pray our way to pro-life victory!

## New Anglican Province in North America Affirms LIFE!

By Georgette Forney

Anglicans for Life is excited to report that the newly formed Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) has affirmed the sanctity of life in its founding documents in late June. During the new Church's Inaugural Provincial Assembly, more than 250 ordained and lay delegates ratified the Constitution and Canons that establish the new Anglican Province in North America.

Section 4 and 5 of Canon 8 in Title II, states "God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, from conception to natural death, all members and clergy are called to protect and respect the sanctity of every human life. The Church is called upon to show Christ-like compassion to those who have fallen into sin, encouraging them to repent and receive forgiveness, and offering the ministry of healing to all who suffer physically or emotionally as a result."

According to Georgette Forney, President of Anglicans for Life, "This is an historical event. While most mainline denominations uphold the right to abortion, the ACNA has chosen to boldly

proclaim the right to life. We are looking forward to helping the 700 parishes of the new ACNA establish life-affirming outreach and ministry in their local communities. Anglicans for Life has the resources these Churches will need to uphold the sanctity of life and we're here to serve them."

In 2006, Anglicans for Life adopted its own Declaration of Life Statement and submitted it to the Committee drafting the Canons. AFL was honored to learn that the committee had chosen to use the wording, while making some slight variations to the order for the sake of grammar!

Anglicans for Life is the only life-affirming ministry in the Anglican Communion dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia, protecting embryos from destructive research, and promoting abstinence and adoption.



Georgette Forney

## Walker Percy to the New York Times

On January 22, 1988, Walker Percy (1916-1990), an American physician-novelist, composed a letter to the editor on abortion and mailed it to *The New York Times*. Percy's letter was never published in the *Times*, and receipt of the letter was never acknowledged by the newspaper. His letter, in full, follows. (Editor, *LifeWatch*)

Dear Sir:

The fifteenth anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court seems as good an occasion as any to call attention to an aspect of the abortion issue which is generally overlooked.

The battle lines between the "pro-life" and the "pro-choice" advocates are so fixed, the arguments so well known, indeed so often repeated, that it hardly seems worth the time to enter the controversy on the present terms. Thus, while it may indeed be argued that in terms of Judeo-Christian values individual human life is sacred and may not be destroyed, and while it is also true that modern medical evidence shows ever more clearly that there is no qualitative difference between an unborn human infant and a born human infant, the argument is persuasive only to those who accept such values and such evidence. Absent these latter, one can at least understand the familiar arguments for a "woman's rights over her own body," including "the products of conception."

The issue, then, seems presently frozen between the "religious" and the "secular" positions....Rather than enter the fray with one or another argument, which, whether true or not, seems to be unavailing, I should like to call attention to certain social and historical consequences which may be less well known—call the attention, that is, of certain wellknown and honorable institutions such as *The New York Times*, the United States Supreme Court, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Organization [for] Women, and suchlike who, while distinguished in their defense of human rights, may not accept the premise of the sacred provenance of human life.

In a word, certain consequences, perhaps unforeseen, follow upon the acceptance of the principle of the destruction of human life for what may appear to be the most admirable social reasons.

One does not have to look back very far in history for an example of such consequences. Take democratic Germany in the

1920s. Perhaps the most influential book published in German in the first quarter of this century was entitled *The Justification of the Destruction of Life Devoid of Value*. Its co-authors were the distinguished jurist Karl Binding and the prominent psychiatrist Alfred Hoche. Neither Binding nor Hoche had ever heard of Hitler or the Nazis. Nor, in all likelihood, did Hitler ever read the book. He didn't have to.

The point is that the ideas expressed in the book and the policies advocated were the product not of Nazi ideology but rather of the best minds of the pre-Nazi Weimar Republic—physicians, social scientists, jurists, and the like, who with the best secular intentions wished to improve the lot, socially and genetically, of the German people—by getting rid of the unfit and the unwanted.

It is hardly necessary to say what use the Nazis made of these ideas. I would not wish to be understood as implying that the respected American institutions I have named are similar to corresponding pre-Nazi institutions. But I do suggest that once the line is crossed, once the principle gains acceptance—juridically, medically, socially—innocent human life can be destroyed for whatever reason, for the most admirable socioeconomic, medical, or social reasons—then it does not take a prophet to predict what will happen next, or if not next, then sooner or later. At any rate, a warning is in order. Depending on the disposition of the majority and the opinion polls—now in favor of allowing women to get rid of unborn and unwanted babies—it is not difficult to imagine an electorate or a court ten years, fifty years from now, who would favor getting rid of useless old people, retarded children, anti-social blacks, illegal Hispanics, gypsies, Jews. Why not?—if that is what is wanted by the majority, the polled opinion, the polity of the time.

Sincerely yours,

Walker Percy

## U.S. bishops warn of vigorous opposition if Congress Fails to Exclude Abortion from Health Care Reform

Washington D.C., October 8 (CNA) .- The U.S. Catholic bishops sent an open letter to Congress today, stating that they will "vigorously oppose" the health care bills unless they prevent taxpayer funds from paying for abortion...Cardinal Justin Rigali, Bishop William Murphy and Bishop John Wester penned the letter on behalf of all the U.S. bishops to "express our disappointment that progress has not been made on the three priority criteria for health care reform that we have conveyed previously to Congress."

"In fact," they noted, "the Senate Finance Committee rejected a conscience rights amendment accepted earlier by the House Energy and Commerce Committee."

The bishops warned Congress that if the final legislation "does not meet our principles, we will have no choice but to oppose the bill...."

Listing the flaws that they see in the current health care bills, the Catholic bishops urged lawmakers to prohibit "mandated coverage for abortion, and incorporate longstanding policies against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights."

**"No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion," they insisted.**

Despite insistence by some legislators that the reform bills do exclude abortion and protect consciences, the high-ranking bishops said that, "No current bill meets this test...."

Saying that they "sincerely hope that the legislation will not fall short of our criteria," the U.S. bishops said that they "remain apprehensive when amendments protecting freedom of conscience and ensuring no taxpayer money for abortion are defeated in committee votes."

"If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found,"

the warned, "we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously."

The bishops concluded their letter by writing, "Much-needed reform of our health care system must be pursued in ways that serve the life and dignity of all, never in ways that undermine or violate these fundamental values."

### Associate Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become an Associate Member of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, Inc.

Enclosed is my fee of \$25.00 for membership as:

\_\_\_\_\_ an individual \_\_\_\_\_ a church \_\_\_\_\_ a group

I would like to make a tax deductible donation of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help NPRC with its important work.

Mail to: NPRC c/o Development Office,  
PO Box 61838, Staten Island, NY 10306-9811

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Group \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_