

## CALL FOR SUPPORT OF REPRODUCTIVE AUTONOMY AND HEALTHCARE

We, as the laity and clergy members of the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Conferences of the United Methodist Church, affirm the sacred worth of those who are or may become pregnant; further affirm their bodily autonomy, right to privacy in medical care and treatment, and right of access to reproductive health services including abortion and contraceptive care; and further affirm their access to the divine gift of free will and personal ethical decision making rooted in our shared faith and practice.

The United Methodist Social Principles (§ 161.K) state that “we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child,” and “we recognize the tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers,” and “the Church shall encourage ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies such as comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education, advocacy in regard to contraception, and support of initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls around the globe,” and “a decision concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved, with medical, family, pastoral, and other appropriate counsel.”

The recent ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States grieves us and places the lives, physical and emotional health, and spiritual well-being of parishioners and community members in jeopardy. It disproportionately punishes those already pressed to the margins and places them under undue financial and emotional strain. As conferences committed to anti-racism, equity, justice, and care, we cannot be silent in the face of such mendacity.

The members of the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Conferences of The United Methodist Church denounce in the strongest terms the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Further, we name the real harm that this decision will exact upon those bearing children and the children they bear.

We call on our laity, clergy, congregations, extension ministries, and communities to commit to local and connectional ministry in support of individuals seeking reproductive health care that may be prohibited by the jurisdiction in which that individual resides. We commit to working with United Methodist entities in states that are banning abortion in order to allow people affordable access. We call upon our annual conferences to create funds where people may donate to help support access to vital reproductive healthcare for staff, clergy, and their families.

We call on our congregations to have well-facilitated conversations about abortion care, reproductive health, and the intersections of health care, racism, poverty, and sexism, prioritizing compassion over judgment.

We call upon our federal representatives to move a Constitutional amendment securing the protected rights for reproductive health, including abortion.

We call on the Secretaries of our Annual Conferences to send a copy of this resolution to each member of their legislative bodies, both state and federal to publicly bear witness to the Church of Jesus Christ standing with and for those whose agency is being denied, whose freedom is being restricted, and whose voices are being ignored.