

**OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH'S POSITION STATEMENT
REGARDING THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

Adopted by the Board of Overseers on May 11, 2010

PREAMBLE: There can come times in which the culture in which we live departs so drastically from a Biblical viewpoint that it becomes important for the leadership of Olivet to express a statement regarding a particular issue or position in order to reaffirm our understanding of God's will as expressed in the Scripture and by the leading of the Holy Spirit to provide clarification and direction for the Olivet congregation. The Bible at Romans 12:2 tells us, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will." We are also aware that we must be careful about how we respond, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does." (2 Corinthians 10:3) We, the Board of Overseers and Deacons, believe we are experiencing a time in our culture in which we should respond by issuing this Sanctity of Human Life Position Statement

PERTINENT CHURCH FAITH STATEMENT FROM OUR CONSTITUTION:

The Word of God: We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (Article II, A)

PERTINENT SCRIPTURE: These are Scripture passages that have guided our position.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."(Genesis 1:27) "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man"(Genesis 9:6) "You shall not murder" (Deuteronomy 5:17) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."(Jeremiah 1:5) "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (Psalm 139:13-16) "Before I was born the LORD called me" (Isaiah 49:1) "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. (Luke 1:15) "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." (Luke 1:41) "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."(Psalm 82:2-4) "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:23-24)

OUR POSITION STATEMENT: We have based the following Position Statement upon our constitution's "Statement of Faith" regarding the authority of the Bible, upon the appropriate Biblical passages and teachings, and upon the leading of the Holy Spirit through our prayers and counsel of our pastors, deacons, and fellow overseers.

"We believe that human life is sacred and begins at the moment of conception. At that point, all individuals are known by God and being made in His sacred image. We believe the weak, vulnerable, infirm, handicapped, preborn and needy deserve our respect and care. Therefore, we oppose those practices, policies, or procedures which would deny the God-given right to life of every human being. We reject the notion that some lives are not worthy of living. Instead, we embrace all human life as a gift from God that is worthy of dignity and protection. As a result, the church must give herself to providing biblical, caring ministries to women with unwelcome pregnancies, the mentally and physically challenged, the suicidal, the elderly, and the terminally ill.

Additionally, we do not condemn those who have ended a human life or those who participated in decisions to do so. Praise be to God that He has provided a way for all of us to escape any condemnation we so often rightfully deserve."