

ABORTION

A Uniting Church Perspective

The Uniting Church National Assembly does not hold a position on abortion. The Uniting Church bears witness to God, but this does not always mean having a final answer on the matter. We recognise that the Church does not possess all the answers and that, as Christians endeavouring to grasp the significance of the revelations of God in Jesus Christ, we see things with the eyes of our time and place. Christians exist in a real and broken world, where people face painful dilemmas in their lives. Giving witness to God is often best acted out through pastoral counselling, care and support without judgement.

Synods of the Uniting Church that have spoken on the matter of abortion have recognised that many women who choose abortion do so because of the social and economic difficulties they face if they continue with the pregnancy. The solution to this is not to condemn the decision, but to change society and public policy so that women have the economic, emotional and social supports they need to bring up a child, including adequate income and housing, and proper assistance for parents who have a child with a disability. Because society so often fails women and their children, the synods which have spoken on abortion recognise that the final decision must be left to the pregnant woman and that the Church should support both women who have an abortion and those who continue with their pregnancy.

Within the church, there is often a diversity of opinions and positions held on matters relating to medical and sexual ethics and all these views have integrity and should be respected. The Uniting Church encourages women, couples, families, and others who face decisions relating to morality, life and faith to make decisions carefully and prayerfully, acknowledging our continuous need for God's grace and forgiveness.

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October 2004