

**EPC National Leadership Team statement
on U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Roe v. Wade**
June 2022

As a completely and consistently pro-life denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church rejoices with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. We rejoice in the Supreme Court's decision, yet we grieve the estimated 63 million lives¹ tragically lost since the passage of Roe v. Wade in 1973. We rejoice in all decisions that support the most vulnerable and defenseless. We also weep with those whose lives have been deeply affected by such suffering and pain, including women who have experienced rape and sexual abuse.

As the EPC's Position Paper on Abortion states,

"The Evangelical Presbyterian Church affirms that the Bible does not distinguish between prenatal and postnatal life. It attributes human personhood to the unborn child. This extends to the unborn child ex utero as no less a human being than the child in the mother's womb."

And...

"Because we hold these convictions concerning the unborn child, we urge the promotion of legislation that brings our judicial and legal systems into line with the scriptural view on protecting the poor, the weak, and the defenseless."

And...

"The Church must serve as a loving and supportive community to those who have experienced physical, emotional, or spiritual wounds as a result of undergoing an abortion or placing a child for adoption."

As a denomination of more than 630 churches, we affirm that all human life is sacred—from the "womb to the tomb." We affirm that all human life is created in the *Imago Dei* (Image of God). We affirm that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to offer substantial support for those impacted by problematic and/or unexpected pregnancies.

In the days to come, we call upon all members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to pray and renew our efforts to speak the truth in love, to create loving and supportive communities, and to provide substantial support for those impacted.

For the EPC's Position Paper on Abortion, see www.epconnect.org/files/positionpaper-abortion.

EPC National Leadership Team

Brad Strait (Chairman)
TE, Presbytery of the West

Earla Bethel
RE, Presbytery of Florida and the
Caribbean

Brian Evans
RE, Presbytery of the Midwest

Michael Flake
TE, Presbytery of the Central Carolinas

George Hertensteiner
RE, Presbytery of the Great Plains

John Ivy Jr.
RE, Presbytery of the Central South

Victor Jones
RE, Presbytery of the Gulf South

Patrick King
TE, Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

Linda McDaniel
RE, Presbytery of the West

Neil Smith
TE, Presbytery of the East

Carolyn Poteet
TE, Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Dave Strunk
TE, Presbytery of the Southeast

Rosemary Lukens, 42nd GA Moderator
RE, Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest

Joe Kim, 42nd GA Moderator-elect
TE, Presbytery of the East

Dean Weaver, Stated Clerk
TE, Presbytery of the Alleghenies

¹Statistics from the National Right to Life Committee's tracking of CDC and Guttmacher Institute data.