



Lifewatch

Taskforce of United Methodists
on Abortion and Sexuality

*United
Methodists
Honoring Life*

Advisory Board

Rev. Paul R. Crikelair
Pastor
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Cindy Evans
Administrator
O'Fallon, Missouri

Dr. Michael J. Gorman
Dean, Ecumenical Institute of
Theology, Baltimore, Maryland

Dr. Amy Laura Hall
Duke University Divinity School

Dr. Stanley Hauerwas
Duke University

Myrna Howard
Alva, Florida

Rev. Bill Hughes
Wesley Foundation
University of Kentucky

Dr. John E. Juergensmeyer
Attorney-At-Law
Elgin, Illinois

Rev. Harold Lewis
Pastor, Washington, D.C.

Priscilla Lynd, M.D.
Pediatrician
Lexington, Kentucky

Dr. Thomas C. Oden
Drew University

Donald T. Siress
Treasurer
O'Fallon, Missouri

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth
Taskforce President
Editor, Lifewatch

Don and Carla Thompson
Somerville, Tennessee

Rev. Pat Tony
Pastor, Chatham, Virginia

Kim Turkington
Lexington, Kentucky

Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright
Duke University

Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker
Florida Episcopal Area
Lakeland, Florida

Bishop William H. Willimon
Birmingham Episcopal Area
Birmingham, Alabama

Bishop William R. Cannon
(1916-1997)

Dr. Albert C. Duller
(1908-1989)

Titles and affiliations are for
identification purposes only.
They do not necessarily suggest
institutional involvement in the
work of the Taskforce.

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
March 11, 2010

Dear Representative:

Thank you for your political service -- of your congressional district and our country's common good -- in the United States House of Representatives.

The Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality (or TUMAS or Lifewatch) witnesses to the Gospel of Life within The United Methodist Church and beyond. Some of our witness is moral and political in nature.

In the Social Principles, The United Methodist Church officially recognizes not only "the sanctity of unborn human life" but also "the unborn child" (Paragraph 161J, The Book of Discipline [2008]). So The United Methodist Church claims that the unborn are children and suggests that they are part of the human community. With these moral truths, the Church through the ages and most Americans of our day agree.

Because unborn children are members of the larger society, federal legislation should stop federal dollars from paying for procedures -- i.e., abortions -- that would destroy such children. Since the 1970s, the Hyde Amendment has prevented the federal government from paying for many abortions. By standing between federal dollars and abortion providers, the Hyde Amendment has saved millions of lives.

We strongly urge you to vote for health care reform legislation if and only if it contains permanent, bill-wide language that prevents federal dollars from paying for abortions. Such language keeps the federal government out of the abortion business and protects countless unborn children. On the other hand, if legislation lacks such language, vote No.

Courage is always required to stand up and do what is right. It took courage for American preachers and politicians to oppose slavery in the 19th century. It took courage for German pastors and priests and people to oppose the murderous anti-Semitism of the 1930s and 1940s. It took courage for American clergy and laity and politicians to join the Civil Rights Movement and oppose racism. Now, courage is required of you to stand up and vote against health care reform legislation that would result in destroying, not caring for, unborn children.

Thank you for your attention, and be of good courage.

Sincerely:

(The Rev.) Paul T. Stallsworth
President of TUMAS, and Editor of Lifewatch

Lifewatch Editor: 111 Hodges Street, Morehead City, NC 28557. Phone: 252-726-2175
Administrator: P.O. Box 306, Cottleville, MO 63338. Phone: 636-294-2344
Email: Lifewatch@charter.net Web Site: www.lifewatch.org