



Lifewatch

Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality

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December 1, 2020

Dear Friend of Lifewatch,

Grace and peace to you and yours as the Church enters Advent Season and prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ!

As a reader of Lifewatch, you know that **struggles over "identity"** continue to roil our church and society—so much so, that the next General Conference of The United Methodist Church, planned to begin on August 29, 2021 in Minneapolis, will vote on implementing the Protocol to form 2 (or 3) new denominations out of the existing UMC.

I can only repeat what Bishop Timothy Whitaker has said: "If the laity and clergy do not share a common belief about the identity of the Church, then there is not going to be any unity." Take, for example, the recent settlement between the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The UMC and Glide Memorial Church (about 9% of that Conference's membership) to form "**wholly separate and autonomous organizations.**" This split between two very liberal bodies occurred before the next General Conference considers reorganization to accommodate "liberals" and "traditionalists."

The desire for "autonomy" goes a long way in our church and society. It's something that should give United Methodists of any theological orientation pause—and perhaps a bad conscience.

Concerted, coherent ministries that protect innocent lives against abortion and support chastity are based upon Christ's teachings as lived and upheld by the historic Christian Church. Ironically, before building Glide Memorial Church, Lizzie Glide founded a home for working women in San Francisco in 1914—The Mary Elizabeth Inn. Lizzie Glide's own philanthropy was the result of her experience of "**sanctification**" at a 1889 revival held by evangelist Sam P. Jones—who himself founded the Methodist Orphan Home in Decatur, Georgia!

Are these examples of self-aggrandizing, out-dated "social uplift"? Or were they (and are they) expressions of the virtue of Christian charity? God will be the judge.

Until then, Lifewatch will gladly promote to all Methodists baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit the clear, hopeful, historic Christian teaching on life, abortion, and human sexuality. **A church that identifies as the Body of Christ is a church that proposes, practices, and promotes life, not autonomous, deadly choice!**

Please support Lifewatch with your prayers and your gifts—\$60 or \$100 or more—so that we can continue our clear witness in these confused times.

In Christ,

(The Rev.) Paul T. Stallsworth, Lifewatch President/Lifewatch Editor

YES... I'm with you in upholding the sacredness of life and dignity of persons—born and unborn—at the core of a Christian moral vision for a confused church and society.

Here is my gift to continue to champion among Methodists the God-given dignity of every human life:

() One-time gift:
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GIVING REMINDER
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