



# Lifewatch

## Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality

December 1, 2022

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Dear Friend of Lifewatch,

Advent grace and peace to you and yours, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ.

It's a good time to ask: Where are we? Why are we here? Where are we going?

Rev. John Wesley was the father of the Methodist *movement* within the Church of England. He stated that the mission of the Methodist movement was "[t]o reform the nation and, in particular, the Church; to spread scriptural holiness over the land."

Then the Methodist movement came to the United States and became a *church*. Over the generations, the churches that sprang from Wesley—particularly the Methodist Church and The United Methodist Church—closely conformed themselves to American society and elites.

Methodism's echoing of elite American opinion can be seen particularly in matters related to life, abortion, and sexuality.

What was going on there? Something very simple.

For decades, American elites in and around the universities had been pushing an **autonomy agenda**. They instructed that each person makes his or her own moral decisions, based on personal desire alone—without interference from truth, reality, science, morality, church teaching, family life, or any other authority.

Autonomy teaches each of us to be our own kings or queens and to rule our own lives. Now under the spell of autonomy, many casually eliminate their unborn children; and others sincerely believe they can transform themselves into the opposite sex.

Decades ago, some Methodist bishops boarded the autonomy train. They morally legitimized the procurement of abortion and the practice of homosexuality. These moral permissions spread among clergy—among the very people whose calling it was "to reform the nation."

Now Methodism itself needs to be reformed—as demonstrated by the schism rending The United Methodist Church and giving rise to the Global Methodist Church.

In the midst of heresy, perhaps apostasy, and schism, Lifewatch has a witness to offer. Lifewatch witnesses to Jesus Christ—His Headship over the Church and His Body the Church. Called by Christ, owned by Christ, guided by Christ, the Church receives and relays Christ's revelation regarding life and abortion, and marriage and sexuality. Lifewatch never tires of proposing this truth: Jesus Christ is Lord—not the autonomous individual—and Christ's Lordship determines the Church's teaching on life and marriage.

Since 1987, Lifewatch has offered this testimony to United Methodists. Our witness continues to be: Because of Jesus Christ, the Church is possible, the unborn child can be protected, marriage can be served by sexuality, and **autonomous individuals can be transformed** by God's love.

Please help us continue our witness to United Methodists, and now to Global Methodists. We depend upon your prayers, your encouragement, and your gifts. Thank you!

Continue faithful, to Christ and His Church, for the sake of the world. In Christ,

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

**YES... I support Lifewatch's unique Christ-centered witness regarding life and abortion, marriage and sexuality to individuals, churches and society in critical need of "scriptural holiness."**

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

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