



PRESBYTERIANS

AFFIRMING

REPRODUCTIVE

OPTIONS

Supporting the General Assembly Pro-Choice and Reproductive Health policies and protecting the religious and personal freedom of women and men.

PARO is a constituency group of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), a ministry of the National Ministries Division, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



www.pcusa.org/phewa/paro



PARO's LEADERSHIP TEAM

Melissa Lynn DeRosia, Co-Moderator
Chaplain, Advocate for Women's Concerns
ana_logos@yahoo.com

David Dornack, Co-Moderator
Pastor, Social Justice Advocate
david@rosecityparkpres.org

Janet Lowery, Secretary
Pastor, Social Justice Advocate
janet.lowery@cs.com

Charles Forbes, Treasurer
Elder, Stated Clerk, Baltimore Presbytery

Judith E. Michaels, G.A. Coordinator
Clergy, Writer

Gloria H. Albrecht
Clergy, Professor of Religious Studies

Amye Cole
Student Development Director

Ann Hayman
Clergy, Community Activist

Charles L. Jensen
Retired Engineer, Social Justice Advocate

Jenny I.C. Lin
Public Policy Analyst

Bernadine G. McRipley
Clergy, Social Justice Advocate

Howard L. Rice, Jr.
Clergy, Moderator of 191st General Assembly, UPCUSA

Noelle Royer
Event Planner

Sylvia Thorson-Smith
Professor, Writer

Dana W. Wilbanks
Clergy, Professor of Christian Ethics



Our charge is to Advocate, Educate, and Resource the Church in support of our commitment to:

The Gospel

Affirming "Good news to the poor...release to the captive...and liberty to the oppressed," (Luke 4:18, NRSV) and declaring redemption and reconciliation in the lives of women and their families as they make faithful decisions in Jesus' promise of abundant life.

Reformed Theology

Affirming that as Reformed Christians, we believe in and worship God alone as sovereign, holy, and Lord of our conscience. Respecting all of God's creation, we recognize the danger of making absolute any one view of when life begins.

Providing theological and ethical guidance to Presbyterians regarding emerging reproductive technologies.

The Value of Women's Lives

Affirming the ability and responsibility of women, guided by the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit - and within the multicultural context of their communities of faith and diversity of experience - to make good moral choices about problem pregnancy, as faithful stewards of their lives and bodies.

Mutual Respect for the Differing Opinions About Abortion

Respecting the decisions women make regarding reproductive options.

Affirming that Presbyterians hold a variety of opinions concerning issues related to problem or crisis pregnancy and abortion and that Choice is the position that best encourages open conversation and mutual respect for all values.

Full Access to the Complete Range of Reproductive Health Services

Seeking ways to reduce the need for abortion by decreasing the incidence of unintended pregnancy through sexuality education and expanded access to all contraceptive technologies.

Education and Public Policy

Affirming the historic and consistent social witness policies of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that support voluntary family planning and personal decision making regarding contraception and abortion.

Affirming the role and responsibility of PARO to promote the social witness policy of the Presbyterian Church (USA) regarding contraception and abortion.

Help Preserve Our Church's Support for Reproductive Options. Add Your Voice for Choice - Join PARO Today!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name
Address
City
State Zip
Phone(w) (h)
E-mail
Presbytery

Please check one of the following:

Individual \$35
Retired/student/low income \$10
Congregation* \$110
Family/Group* \$110
Agency* \$150
Governing Body* \$250
Lifetime* \$525

*Includes membership in all networks.

I've enclosed an additional gift of \$

Your gift is tax deductible. Giving to PARO should be over and above regular giving to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Send this form and your check to:

PHEWA/PARO

100 Witherspoon St., Room 4617
Louisville, KY 40202-1396
1-888-728-7228, ext. 5800

www.pcusa.org/phewa

PHEWA is a tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the IRS Code. All gifts are tax deductible.



is a network of Presbyterians dedicated to safeguarding the full range of reproductive health options for women and men.

PARO is a constituency group of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), a ministry of the National Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Since 1989, PARO has worked to inform Presbyterians of the Church's pro-Choice position and of threats to individual freedom of conscience and religious liberty within the Church and in the world.

What is CHOICE?

CHOICE involves making moral decisions regarding abstinence, contraception, continuing a pregnancy, having children, adoption, and abortion.

Why become involved?

Because your voice gives support to the long-standing position of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that affirms both the importance of family planning and our respect for individual beliefs and decisions regarding reproductive options, including contraception and abortion.

If Presbyterians predominantly support Choice, why do we need PARO?

Because ongoing efforts are needed to provide a comprehensive response by the church to all individuals in need of our support - those who wish to continue a pregnancy, those who seek to terminate a pregnancy, and those who seek more effective means to avoid unintended pregnancy.

Because efforts to undermine our pro-Choice position continue to threaten not only the beliefs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but also the rights and personal and religious freedom of all women.

How does PARO support Choice?

- By networking with other concerned church members and organizations on issues relating to reproductive freedom.
- By developing and distributing teaching materials to pastors, congregations, presbyteries, synods, and seminaries.
- By raising consciousness regarding threats to freedom of conscience before God.
- By providing a pro-Choice presence at the General Assembly and other church gatherings with exhibits, literature, programs, and personnel.
- By providing a Presbyterian presence in the ecumenical pro-Choice community and a religious presence and representation in the larger pro-Choice movement.

Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Options/PHEWA ~100 Witherspoon St., Room 4617~Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Phone 888-728-7228 x 5800 ~ Fax 502-569-8034

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NETWORKS OF PHEWA

The Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) is a not-profit voluntary membership organization. Its purpose is to provide resources for Presbyterians involved in social welfare and justice ministries. PHEWA has also worked, since 1956, to make the church more responsive to the needs of the excluded and suffering. PHEWA is a program of the National Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Ten networks are organized under PHEWA to address special concerns. The ten networks are:

- paa** Presbyterians for Addiction Action
- pact** Presbyterian Association for Community Transformation
- padvn** Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network
- pan** Presbyterian AIDS Network
- paro** Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Options
- paspm** Presbyterian Association of Specialized Pastoral Ministries
- pcan** Presbyterian Child Advocacy Network
- pdc** Presbyterians for Disability Concerns
- phn** Presbyterian Health Network
- psmin** Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network

**Contribute
to the
Work of PARO**

Send a check to PHEWA/PARO
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
100 Witherspoon Street, Room 4617
Louisville, KY 40202-1396