The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) is dedicated to preserving the right to obtain an abortion. According to RCRC’s president and CEO, The Reverend Carlton W. Veazey, “RCRC was founded in 1973 to safeguard the newly won constitutional right to abortion.” (Veazey, “RCRC was founded in 1973 to safeguard the newly won constitutional right to abortion.”)

RCRC is a partner organization of National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC), which describes itself as a “Christian coalition which acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and works to encourage every Christian denomination to affirm and witness to the biblical standard of the value, dignity and sanctity of human life, and to foster ministry to those vulnerable to the violence of abortion or euthanasia.” (www.rcrc.org/about/index.cfm)

United Methodist Church Agencies Should Withdraw from RCRC

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Consider this picture. A facility that provides abortions goes about its business, day after day. RCRC works to help make sure this facility stays open so that abortion services are available to those who would desire them. Theologically, RCRC strives to assure the religious community that abortion rights are ecumenically and interreligiously supported. That is, RCRC provides theological and religious legitimation and cover for abortion rights. ...RCRC instructs that adult agency or decision-making authority can and should override any concern for the unborn child. Politically, RCRC lobbies for pro-abortion legislation and against pro-life legislation. Also, politically speaking, RCRC advances the notion of the “naked public square,” by attempting to rule out of-bounds the public expression of religiously grounded and motivated pro-life views. Legally, RCRC submits briefs that encourage courts to decide for abortion rights. Again, consider the picture. In part because of RCRC’s labors, the abortion-providing facility continues its work, day after day.

Because the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights does what it does, United Methodist institutions—namely, the General Board of Church and Society and the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries—should be withdrawn from it. May God grant General Conference 2008 the moral clarity and strength to withdraw our agencies from RCRC.

Changing America...one heart at a time
NRLC 2008
36th annual National Right to Life Convention
Celebrate 4th of July in the nation’s capitol!
Washington, DC July 3-5, 2008
Hyatt Regency Crystal City 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202
Call (703) 418-1234 for reservations.
Banquet speaker: Reverend Richard John Neuhaus, President of The Institute on Religion and Public Life; Editor-in-chief of First Things magazine
Thursday evening General Session speaker is Michael Clancy (the photographer who took the photo of baby Samuel, hand reaching up out of the womb). See: www.michaelclancy.com

Priests for Life Seeks to Bridge Life-Justice Gap
Representing Priests for Life, the NPRC President, Fr. Frank Pavone, participated in the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace conference at Rome in November 2007, hosted by its President, Cardinal Renato Martino, Priests for Life Advisory Board member.

The conference met for three days and focused on various aspects of human rights and development. In its Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace points out that at the very heart of social justice is the right to life, which is the first human right, and the foundation for all the others.

In the group discussions at the conference, Fr. Frank again pointed to this basic truth and thanked the participants for their important role in bridging the false gap that sometimes exists between those who work for social justice and those who work to restore justice for the unborn. Fr. Frank’s concrete recommendation was to bring together on a local level the individuals involved in these efforts, and by fostering mutual relations, prayer, and dialogue, to help them understand the deep unity of their respective causes, which really comprise one single cause for human dignity.

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Presbyterians Pro-Life is pleased to announce the election of The Rev. John S. Sheldon, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, New Jersey, to the position of President of the Presbyterians Pro-Life Board of Directors.

John is the second Sheldon to serve in this capacity. His father, The Rev. Benjamin Sheldon served as president of PPL for 11 years from the mid-80s to the mid-90s. He continues to serve on the PPL Board of Directors as President Emeritus.

John’s involvement with the PPL board is also long-standing, beginning as early as 1989. He has served as Senior Vice-President of PPL since 1995 and has been an integral part of PPL’s General Assembly team.

John and his wife, Laurie, have 9 wonderful children (below). Both generations of Sheldons view children as “a heritage from the Lord,” (Psa. 127:3). Both have been faithful in their witness within the PC(USA) to the truth that God cherishes every human life and calls us to protect and nurture especially the most vulnerable, those waiting to be born.

We will stay and witness!

It is a season of change in the PC(USA). At their October 2007 meeting, PPL’s Board of Directors wrestled with how to respond faithfully in a time of transition. The board prayerfully answered this challenge by unanimously reaffirming PPL’s stated purpose: “to be a prophetic voice in the PC(USA), upholding the sacred value of human life and the family.”

With this in mind, PPL launches a new program called Partners for Life.

PPL Launches Partners for Life Program

PPL’s Board of Directors would like to extend an invitation to you and your church to join in a special partnership with Presbyterians Pro-Life. We hope that by joining hands and forming deeper relationships with pro-life churches across the country, we can work together as God’s chosen people to bring about the renewal of our land and the preservation of innocent human life.

For 30 years, PPL has raised a prophetic witness in the PC(USA), calling our denomination to return to a biblical stand against abortion and to protect every human life, born and unborn. At the same time PPL has been active in providing educational and ministry resources to help us fulfill our commitment to the protection of innocent human life.

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PPL encourages Presbyterians to attend pro-life prayer vigils and other activities in their communities. In PPL’s continuing effort to equip the church, PPL provides a variety of tools to equip us in our mission.

One way we equip the church is through the PPL’s new Partners for Life Program. This program combines our commitment to supporting local churches with our mission to strengthen the pro-life movement in our own community.

Partners for Life is a new program that will link your church with another church that would like to join hands and form a partnership with you. Together we will be able to do much more than we can alone.

The program works like this:

1. Identify a church as your partner.

2. Sign the PPL partnership agreement and return it to the PPL office.

3. PPL will mail you a list of churches interested in forming a partnership.

4. Choose a church (or churches) to form your partnership with.

5. Communicate with your chosen partner and begin a relationship. This could be through sharing information, mentoring, or any other relationship that makes sense to you.

The goal of the program is to strengthen the pro-life movement in our community by connecting churches that share common interests and desires.

We encourage you to consider joining the PPL’s new Partners for Life Program. This program offers a unique opportunity to connect with other churches and to support the pro-life movement in your community.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact PPL’s Director of Church Relations, John Sheldon, at (412) 487-1990. We look forward to hearing from you soon!