**Official statements or documents on
bioethics and biotechnology
(as of April 2004)**
The following list is incomplete and is meant as an invitation to share with us more information about statements by churches and church related organisations so that we provide a more comprehensive overview. Please send relevant information to [JPC Creation team](http://www2.wcc-coe.org/wccstaff.nsf/SendEmailForm?OpenForm&ParentUNID=F9609343F3E87C24C1256CCC0035D408).

**Orthodox churches**

**Ecumenical Patriarchate**

* NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT
* On the occasion of the Synaxis-Assembly of the Primates of the Orthodox Church in December 2000, at the Phanar, it was decided to create an interorthodox Committee on bioethical issues.
* Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
Conference on Bioethics
*“The Church and Bioethics. The Word of Science and the Word of Religion”*
Chambésy Geneva 11-15 September 2002
Conclusions

*French :*
Centre orthodoxe du Patriarcat œcuménique
Congrès scientifique de Bioéthique
*« Église et Bioéthique. La parole de la religion et la parole de la science »*Chambésy-Genève, 11-15 septembre 2002
Conclusions
*Episkepsis 614* (31.10.2002) p. 3-10
* The Theological Institute of Saint Sergius in Paris organizes an annual colloquium on bioethics since 1997

**The Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA)**

**Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**
[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org/)

* *Currently working as part of the SCOBA “Social and Moral Issues Commission” (to report in April 2003 for adoption in May)*
* *Coordinating Committee Appointed for Archdiocesan Advisory Committee of Science and Technology* 11 June 2002
**Articles**
“For the Health of Body and Soul: An Eastern Orthodox Introduction to Bioethics” by Stanley S. Harakas
[www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article8076.asp](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article8076.asp)
“Pastoral Guidelines: Church Positions Regarding the Sanctity of Human Life” by Rev. Dr. Stanley S. Harakas
[www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article8083.asp](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/http./www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article8083.asp)
The Stand of the Orthodox Church on Controversial Issues by Rev. Stanley Harakas, Th.D.
[www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article7101.asp](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article7101.asp)

**Orthodox Church in America**
[www.oca.org](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.oca.org)

* *Currently working as part of the SCOBA “Social and Moral Issues Commission” (to report in April 2003 for adoption in May)*
* 10th All-American Council. Orthodox Church in America. July, 1992 Synodal affirmations: : “On Marriage, Family, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Life”.
These affirmations on marriage, family, sexuality and the sanctity of life are issued by the Holy Synod of Bishops on the occasion of the Tenth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. *Miami, Florida, July 1992*.

**Statements of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America**

* “Embryonic stem cell research in the perspective of Orthodox Christianity” 17 October 2001
[www.oca.org/pages/ocaadmin/documents/Pastoral-Letters/2001-Stem-Cell-research.html](http://www.oca.org/pages/ocaadmin/documents/Pastoral-Letters/2001-Stem-Cell-research.html)
* “The cloning of human embryos” January 2002
[www.oca.org/pages/ocaadmin/documents/Pastoral-Letters/2002-cloning.html](http://www.oca.org/pages/ocaadmin/documents/Pastoral-Letters/2002-cloning.html)

**Encyclical Letter of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America**

* “On Marriage” [http://www.oca.org/pages/ocaadmin/documents/holysynod/marriage.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7http%3A/www.oca.org/pages/ocaadmin/documents/holysynod/marriage.html)

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

* *Currently working as part of the SCOBA “Social and Moral Issues Commission” (to report in April 2003 for adoption in May)*

**Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

* *Currently working as part of the SCOBA “Social and Moral Issues Commission” (to report in April 2003 for adoption in May)*

**Patriarchate of Moscow**
[www.russian-orthodox-church.org.ru](http://www.russian-orthodox-church.org.ru/)

* Russian
<http://www.mospat.ru/text/conception/id/60.html>
* English
“Basis of the Social Doctrine of the Russian Orthodox Church”
XII. Problems of Bioethics
<http://www.mospat.ru/text/e_conception/id/4047.html>
* French
Les Bases de la conception sociale de l’Eglise orthodoxe russe
XII. Problèmes de bioéthique
*Europraica Bulletin*, No 19 (June 27, 2003)
[orthodoxeurope.org/page/14/4.aspx#4](http://orthodoxeurope.org/page/14/4.aspx#4)
* German
« Die grundlagen der socialdoktrin der Russich-Orthodoxen Kirche »
[www.russian-orthodox-church.org.ru/sd00e.htm](http://www.russian-orthodox-church.org.ru/sd00e.htm)

**Patriarchate of Romania**

* Romanian
“Concluziile Comitetului National de Bioetica privind transplantul de organe”
[www.patriarhia.ro/bioetica.htm](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.patriarhia.ro/bioetica.htm)

**Church of Cyprus**

* Views of the church of Cyprus on the issues of Bioethics. A brief summary from the articles of the official Journal Apostolos Varnavas of the Church of Cyprus

**Church of Greece**
Hellenic Republic
The Holy Synod of the Church of Greece
The Bioethics Committee

The Bioethics Committee of the Church of Greece was appointed on December 8, 1998. The objective of the Committee is twofold; on the one hand, it is to study in depth the contemporary bioethical problems from a scientific viewpoint based on the Orthodox ethos and theological perception of man, society and values; on the other hand, the Committee will aim to give answers that will express the position of the Orthodox Church of Greece to the questions and relevant dilemmas arising from bioethical issues.
[www.bioethics.org.gr/en/05\_frame.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.bioethics.org.gr/en/05_frame.html)

**Official Statements**

* Basic Positions on the Ethics of Transplantation
English
[www.bioethics.org.gr/en/10\_frame\_1.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.bioethics.org.gr/en/10_frame_1.html)
Greek
[www.bioethics.org.gr/11\_frame.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/http./www.bioethics.org.gr/11_frame.html)
Greek only
[www.bioethics.org.gr/11\_frame.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.bioethics.org.gr/11_frame.html)
* Brief Presentation on Human Genetics at the Public Hearing with the Civil Society, European Parliament, Brussels, July 9 and 10, 2001
English only
[www.bioethics.org.gr/en/10\_frame\_1.html](http://www.bioethics.org.gr/en/10_frame_1.html)

**Press Releases**
[www.bioethics.org.gr/en/05\_frame.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/http./www.bioethics.org.gr/en/05_frame.html)
* Research on Human Embryos, 25 November 2003
* Abortion, 4 April 2003
* Medically Assisted Reproduction, 16 September 2002
* Euthanasia, 17 August 2000
* Cloning of Embryonic Cells, 14 December 2000
* Decoding of Human Genome, 28 June 2000
* Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy Bioethics Commission "*Declaration of the Basic Principles of Bioethics Based on the Orthodox Tradition*"

**The roman Catholic Church**

**The Holy See**

* Concluding document - “Identity and Status of the Human Embryo” 16 February 1997
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_16021997_final-doc_en.html>
* “Notes on cloning”
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_30091997_clon_en.html>
* “Observations on the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights” Paris, 11 November 1997<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdfile/documents/rc_pa_acdfile_doc_08111998_genoma_>
* Concluding remarks “Human Genome Project” 23-25 February 1998
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_28091998_final-doc_>
* “The dignity of the dying person” 5th General Assembly February 24-27, 1999
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_24021999_dignity-of-dying_en.html>
* “Statement on the so-called ‘Morning after pill’” 31 October 2000
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_20001031_pillola-giorno-dopo_en.html>
* “Respect for the dignity of the dying” 9 December 2000
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_20001209_eutanasia_en.html>
* Concluding Communiqué on the “Ethics of Biomedical Research. For a Christian Vision” 24-26 February 2003<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pont-acd_life_doc_20030226_ix-gen-assembly-final_en.html>

**(See in file List of publications of the Pontifical Academy for Life)
Documents of the Pontifical Academy for Life**

* “Reflections on Cloning”
edited by Pontifical Academy of life
Vatican City: Liberia Editrice Vatican, pp.21, 1997
(Languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, German, Russain, Arabic)
- English <http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_30091997_clon_en.html>
- French
Réflexions sur le clonage
[http://www.vatican.va/roman\_curia/pontifical\_academies/acdlife/documents/rc\_pa\_acdlife\_doc\_30091997\_clon\_fr.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_30091997_clon_en.html)
- Italian
Riflessioni sulla clonazione
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_30091997_clon_it.html>
- German
Reflexionen über klonierung
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_30091997_clon_ge.html>
* “Declaration on the Production and the Scientific and Therapeutic Use of Human Embryonic Stem Cells” 25 August 2000
edited by Pontifical Academy of Life
Vatican City: Liberia Editrice Vatican, pp.19, 2000
(Languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese)
- English <http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_20000824_cellule-staminali_en.html>
- French
Déclaration sur la production et l’usage scientifique et thérapeutique des cellules souches embryonnaires humaines
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_20000824_cellule-staminali_fr.html>
- German
Erklärung über die herstellung sowie die wissenschaftliche und therapeutische verwendung von menschlichen emdbronalen stammzellen
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_20000824_cellule-staminali_ge.html>
- Italian <http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_20000824_cellule-staminali_it.html>
* “Prospects for Xenotransplantation: Scientific Aspects and Ethical Considerations
edited by Juan de Dios Vial Correa and Elio Sgreccia
Vatican City: Liberia Editirice Vaticana, pp.53, 2001
(Languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish)
- English
<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_20010926_xenotrapianti_en.html>
. Italian
« La prospettiva degli xenotrapianti-aspetti scientificie e considerazioni etiche »<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pa_acdlife_doc_20010926_xenotrapianti_it.html>

**Catholic church in England & Wales**
<http://217.19.224.165/frameset.htm> \* Go to Catholic info

* Euthanasia and the Catholic Church
* Human cloning

**Conférence des eveques suisses (CES)**

Communiqué de presse sur “la pilule abortive RU 486 (Mifegyne) en Suisse”

**Conférence des Evêques catholiques de Canada**
<http://www.cccb.ca/Backgrounders.htm>

* La question de l'euthanasie et l'aide au suicide
<http://www.cccb.ca/Backgrounders.htm?CD=&ID=71>

**Conférence des Evêques Françaises**

* Une transgression sans précédent
<http://www.cef.fr/catho/endit/bioethique/20031209_bioethique.php>
* Présentation de l’Essor de la génétique et dignité humaine
<http://www.cef.fr/catho/endit/bioethique/index.php>
* Déclaration du conseil permanent de la Conférence des évêques de France :
L'embryon humain n'est pas une chose
<http://www.cef.fr/catho/actus/communiques/2001/commu20010625embryon.php>

**Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities**
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Abortion, Euthanasia, Bioethics and Reproductive Technology, Natural Family Planning
<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues>

Bioethics and Reproductive Technology: Cloning/Cloning Legislation, Embryo Research, Stem Cell Research

* See File: “Church Documents” (Abortion/Respect Life, Cloning, “Emergency Contraception”, Euthanasia, Family Planning, Stem Cell Research)
* See File: “Fact Sheets, Letters & Testimony (before Congress), Articles, News Releases

**Chieza Evangelica Valdeze**

* Bioetica - ricerca e orientamenti
<http://www.chiesavaldese.org/pages/documenti/mater_studio/bioetica.html>
* I Problemi etici posti dalla scienza
<http://www.chiesavaldese.org/pages/documenti/mater_studio/ivg.html>
* Ethical Problems Raised by Science
http://www.chiesavaldese.org/english/pages/documents/problemi\_etici.html
* La procreazione medicalmente assistita
<http://www.chiesavaldese.org/pages/documenti/mater_studio/proc_med_assist.html>
* L'Eutanasia ed il suicidio assistito
<http://www.chiesavaldese.org/pages/documenti/mater_studio/eutanasia.html>
* In merito alla legge sulla procreazione assistita
Commissione per la bioetica della Tavola Valdese – dicembre 2003
<http://www.chiesavaldese.org/pages/documenti/mater_studio/legge-procr_ass.pdf>

**Church of England**

* “Genetically Modified Organisms” (Ethical Investment Advisory Group March 2000)
[www.cofe.anglican.org/view/gmos/rtf](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/www.cofe.anglican.org/view/gmos/rtf)
* “Human Fertilization and Embryology”
[www.cofe.anglican.org/view/embryo.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/www.cofe.anglican.org/view/embryo.html)
* “Issues in Human Sexuality”
<http://www.bioethics.org.gr/en/10_frame_4.html>
* Appendix One: “Synod’s previous debates on Human Fertilisation and Appendix Two: “Board for Social Responsibility Responses to related Consultations”
- Response to the human Genetics Advisory Commission and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority’s consultation document on cloning issues in reproduction, science and medicine, April 1998.
- Response to the house of Lords Select Committee on Stem Cell Research, June 2001.
Response to the Department of Health Donor Information Consultations: providing information about gamete or embryo donors, June 2003.
- Response to the human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on Sex selection: choice and responsibility in human reproduction, January, 2003.
(in “Embryo Research: some Christian Perspectives” Report by the Mission and Public Affairs council. Published by the General Synod of the Church of England, 2003, p.21-25)

**Church of Scotland**
Society, Religion and Technology Project (SRT)
<http://www.srtp.org.uk/srtpage3.shtml>
The SRT Project reports to the Committee on Congregational Mission Development (CMD) of the Church of Scotland's Board of National Mission, and via these to the General Assembly. The Director is supported by an Advisory Committee of specialists in technology, environment, theology, social sciences and other relevant disciplines.

* Cloning Animal and Human. SRT Project Report 1997 Church of Scotland General Assembly
* Board of National Mission Report to the 2001 General Assembly
Appendix: “GM Animals, Humans and the future of Genetics (SRT)
* General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. 4. Social Interest 4.4 Human Genetic Group May 2001
* See printed colored documents in file

**The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada**

* Ban Human Cloning, the EFC Asks Government (Press Release)
<http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/media/pr_viewer.asp?Press_Release_ID=108>
* Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide <http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/social/issue_viewer.asp?Issue_Summary_ID=16>
Five Years Later, Where is the Care in Dying?
<http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/pdf/EuthanasiaSenateBrief2000.pdf>
* A Matter of Life and Death A Discussion Paper on Euthanasia
The Social Action Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
March 1994
<http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/pdf/Euth%20-%20Matter%20of%20Life%20Death.pdf>
* Walking Together in the Shadow of Death
The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada Submission to the Senate Special Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide August 12, 1994
<http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/pdf/Walking%20-%20Euthanasia%20%20Aug%209.pdf>
* FAX: 952-1154 by Hon. Allan Rock Minister of Health Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9 to Mr. Rock,
<http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/pdf/Rock%2011-01.pdf>

**Evangelische Frauenarbeit in Deutschland e. V. (EFD)**

* Von der Würde und der Verantwortung von Frauen. Stellungnahme des Präsidiums der Evangelischen Frauenarbeit in Deutschalnd zu Fragen der Gen- und Reproductionstechnik. Verabschiedet auf der Klausursitzung des Präsidiums am 25. April 2002.
* II. Von der Würde und der Verantwortung von Frauen. Stellungnahme des Präsidiums der Evangelischen Frauenarbeit in Deutschalnd zu der Argumentationshilfe für aktuelle medizin- und bioethische der Fragen der Kammer für Öffentliche Verantwortung der EKD, August 2002. Verabschiedet vom Präsidium der EFD auf seiner Sitzung am 2 Dezember 2003.

**Fédération protestante de France**

* Le temps est venu de réviser les lois de bioéthique 12 Janvier 2003
<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/fpf/documen/do20030112.html>
* A propos du clonage : éléments de débat et de réflexion - Document soumis aux Eglises et associations protestantes pour réactions - Paris, le 18 décembre 2001 - Communiqué de Presse
<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/fpf/documen/clonage2001.html>
* Clonage - Eléments de réflexion Juin 1997
<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/fpf/documen/clonage1997.html>

**La Iglesia Evangélica Valdense del Río de la Plata**

* Principios y reglas generales de una Bioética materialista por Gustavo Bueno\*
(\*) Catedrático emérito de la Universidad de Oviedo (España). Fundador y Director de la revista El Basilisco.
<http://www.cuadernos.bioetica.org/doctrina8.htm>
Reference: [http://www.cuadernos.bioetica.org](http://www.cuadernos.bioetica.org/)

**Lutheran Church of Australia**
Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions (CSBQ)
<http://www.lca.org.au/csbq/index.htm>

* CSBQ Discussion paper Approved for website, May 2002
*(This article was originally published in “The Lutheran”, June 2002)
(see also CSBQ statement and Submission to SA Select Committee)*
The Euthanasia Debate by Dr Rob Pollnitz
<http://www.lca.org.au/csbq/pdf/EuthanasiaA.pdf>
* Alternative medicine: Some healthy comment
<http://www.lca.org.au/csbq/pdf/alternativemedicine.pdf>
* Euthanasia or Mercy Killing
<http://www.lca.org.au/csbq/pdf/EuthanasiaB.pdf>
* CSBQ Discussion paper: Approved for website, May 2002 (Dr Pollnitz wrote this article for “The Lutheran”, July 2000) - Organ transplants
<http://www.lca.org.au/csbq/pdf/OrgantransplantsA.pdf>
* CSBQ Discussion paper : Approved for website, 30 May 2002 Dear Member of Parliament, Please Support Adult Stem Cell Research
<http://www.lca.org.au/csbq/pdf/StemcellresearchA.pdf>
* CSBQ Discussion paper: Approved for website, May 2002
On Stem Cell Research
<http://www.lca.org.au/csbq/pdf/StemcellresearchB.pdf>

**Evangilischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)
(Evangelical Church of Germany)**
[www.ekd.de](http://www.ekd.de/)

Themen: Bioethik / Gentechnik / Schöpfung
[www.ekd.de/EKD-Texte/2086.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/www.ekd.de/EKD-Texte/2086.html)

* Einverständnis mit der Schöpfung. Ein Beitrag zur ethischen Urteilsbildung im Blick auf die Gentechnik und ihre Anwendung bei Mikoroorganismen, Pflanzen und Tieren, vorgelegt von einer Arbeitsgruppe der EKD, 2., um einen Anhang erweiterte Auflage, Gütersloh 1997. German only
* Neurorientierung für eine nachhaltige Landwirtschaft. Ein Diskussionsbeitrag zur Lage der Landwirtschaft mit einem Wort des Vorsitzenden der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz und des Vorsitzenden des Rates der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland. German only
* Food Security and Sustainable Development: A Study of the EKD Advisory Commission on Development and Environment. Texte 67. (20 July 2000)
German (original)
Ernährungssicherung und Nachhaltige Entwicklung. Eine Studie der Kammer der EKD für Entwicklung und Umelt. Texte #67.
<http://www.ekd.de/EKD-Texte/2110_1876.html>
* Kundgebungsentwurf zum Schwerpunktthema Was ist der Mensch? Vorlage des Vorbereitungsausschusses zum Schwerpunktthema 4 November 2002. German only

**Churches in the USA**

**American Baptist Churches**

* Policy Statement on Health, Healing and Wholeness – Situational Analysis
<http://www.abc-usa.org/resources/resol/whole.htm>
* Resolution on Death and Dying
<http://www.abc-usa.org/resources/resol/death.htm>
* Policy Statement on Health Care
<http://www.abc-usa.org/resources/resol/healthcre.htm>

**Church of Brethren**

* AC 93 Resolution on Organ and Tissue Donation
<http://www.brethren.org/ac/ac_statements/93OrganDonation.htm>
* Statement, 1996 Annual Conference End-of-Life Decision-Making Statement
<http://www.brethren.org/ac/ac_statements/96EndOfLife.htm>
* 1987 Passed “Guidance in relation to genetic engineering”
<http://www.brethren.org/ac/ac_statements/87GeneticEngineering.html>
* [www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics/church\_of\_the\_brethren.htm](http://www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics/church_of_the_brethren.htm)
1997 Update was considered but REJECTED

**Episcopal Church, USA**
[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/)

* Under Draft: Resolution of the Task Force on Ethics and the New Genetics
[www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics/Episcopal.pdf](http://www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics/Episcopal.pdf)
(To view this document you must use a password)
* Under Draft: Report to Executive Council (January 2003)
[www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics/Episcopal2.pdf](http://www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics/Episcopal2.pdf)
(To view this document you must use a password)

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**
[www.elca.org](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/http./7www.elca.org)

* A Social Statement on “Abortion” adopted at the second biennial Churchwide assembly, meeting in Orlando, Florida, August 28-September 4, 1991
* A Social Statement on “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice” adopted by the third Churchwide Assembly on August 28, 1993, at Kansas City, Missouri.
NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT
* 1998 Recommended Study Document “Genetic Testing and Screening: Critical Engagement at the Intersection of Faith and Science” [www.elca.org/dcs/genetic.html](http://www.elca.org/dcs/genetic.html)
SEE PUBLICATION
* 2001 Recommended Study Document “Human Cloning Papers From a Church Consultation”
[www.elca.org/dcs/humancloning.html](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.elca.org/dcs/humancloning.html)
SEE PUBLICATION
* 2001 Congregational Study “Genetics! Where Do We Stand as Christians?” [www.elca.org/dcs/genetics.study.html](http://www.elca.org/dcs/genetics.study.html)
The 2004 Lutheran Ethicists Gathering held on January 7-8, 2004, at Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center in Chicago.

**The General Council of the Assemblies of God**

* Modern Medicine and the Assemblies of God Beliefs
<http://ag.org/top/beliefs/contemporary_issues/issues_13_medicine.cfm>
* Genetic Alteration and Cloning
What is the Assemblies of God position on cloning and genetic engineering? Is it the same on the cloning of animals and humans? Are there any circumstances in which genetic engineering would have positive value?
<http://ag.org/top/beliefs/contemporary_issues/issues_14_genetics.cfm>
* Euthanasia, and Extraordinary Support to Sustain Life
Does the Assemblies of God have a position on euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, and the use of medical support to sustain life?
<http://ag.org/top/beliefs/contemporary_issues/issues_18_euthanasia.cfm>
* Organ Donation
Does the Assemblies of God have a position on human organ donation?
<http://ag.org/top/beliefs/contemporary_issues/issues_19_organ_donation.cfm>

**Moravian Church**

* 1986 Resolution and Election of the Provincial Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church
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* 2002 Report on Bioethics of the Committee on Church and Society
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[www.electronicchurch.org/genetics/moravian\_church\_in\_america.htm](http://www.electronicchurch.org/genetics/moravian_church_in_america.htm)
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* “Statement of Faith and Practice”

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* 1974 Statement – UPCUSA, 1974, Minutes pp. 199 & 618
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* 1983 Statement – PC(USA), Minutes pp. 97 & 846
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* 1988 Genetic Engineering (revised) MGS 1988, pp. 61-74
* 1999 Genetic Engineering: An Update by the Commission on Christian Action MGS 1999, pp. 87-98
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Report of the Commission on Christian Action”
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DOCUMENT UNAVAILABLE

Other Documents:
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Report of Commission, November 16-17, 2000 and February 9-10, 2001
[www.electronicchurch.org/genetics/reformed\_church\_in\_america3.htm](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.electronicchurch.org/genetics/reformed_church_in_america3.htm) =
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[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org/)

* 1983 Resolution: “Concern about the Moral and Ethical Implications of Genetic Engineering
[www.electronicchurch.org/genetics/UnitedChurchofChrist.pdf](http://www.electronicchurch.org/genetics/UnitedChurchofChrist.pdf)
* 1987 Resolution: “The Church and Genetic Engineering”
1989 Pronouncement and Proposal for Action: “The Church and Genetic Engineering”
[www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/res30.htm](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/http./www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/res30.htm)
* 2001 Resolution: “Christian Response to Development in Genetic Technology”

Additional Resources, Testimony: News Account of Testimony of Ronald Cole-Turner to the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAY)[www.ucc.org/justice/stemcell/paper.htm](http://www.ucc.org/justice/stemcell/paper.htm)

**United Methodist Church**

* 1984 General Conference Resolution declared genes to be a part of the common heritage of all peoples
* 1988 General Conference Resolution affirming the positive prospects and warning of the potential dangers of genetic technologies, and authorized the establishment of a representative task force
* 1988 Social Principles: amended to oppose procedures resulting in ‘waste embryos’
* 1992 General Conference Resolution adopting Resolution on Genetic Science
“The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000”
90. New Developments in Genetic Science
[www.eletronicchurch.org/Genetics/UMC-Book\_of\_Resolutions\_Genetic\_Science\_and\_Science\_and\_Cloning.pdf](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.eletronicchurch.org/Genetics/UMC-Book_of_Resolutions_Genetic_Science_and_Science_and_Cloning.pdf)
* 2000 General Conference Resolution on 91. Human Cloning
* 2000 General Conference Resolution directing General Board of Church and Society to Investigate Stem Cells, Transgenic and Other Issues
* 2000 amended and Readopted previous statements

Other Documents: Working Paper of the Bioethics Taskforce of General Board of Church and Society
(To view these documents you must use a password)

**Regional Councils of Churches**

**Conference of European Churches (CEC)**

Bioéthique. Étude des questions soulevées par la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe sur les Droits de l'homme et la Biomédecine, ainsi que les aspects bioéthiques et biotechnologiques ressortant du travail et de la législation de la Communauté européenne.
Travaux de l'ancienne EECCS et travaux actuels d'Église et Société sur la Bioéthique:
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* Medically Assisted Procreation and the Protection of the Human Embryo (position paper, 1996)
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/embryo.htm>
* Critique of the Draft EC Patenting Directive (position paper, October 1996) <http://www.cec-kek.org/English/critqpatente.htm>
***French
Groupe de Travail de l'EECCS sur la Bioéthique***
Critiqe du projet de Directive de la C.E. sur les brevets
<http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/critqpatentf.htm>
* Patenting of Biotechnological Inventions (position paper, March 1998)
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/patenting.htm>
* Medically Assisted Procreation after 20 years (position paper, 1998)
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/pma98e.htm>
* La procréation médicalement assistée, 20 ans après
<http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/pmaf.htm>
* Cloning Animals and Humans (position paper, May 1998)
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/cloning.htm>
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Le clonage des animaux et des êtres humains
<http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/clonagef.htm>
* EECCS and Bioethics (position paper, June 1998)
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/bioeeccs.htm>
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EECCS et la Bioéthique
<http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/bioeeccsf.htm>
* Patentability of the Human Genome (Letter to the EU Council of Ministers, June 2000) EECCS Working Group on Bioethics
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/genomeE.htm>
***French***
Lettre au Conseil des Ministres de l'UE sur la Brevetabilité du génome humain
<http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/genomeF.htm>
* Letter from Keith Jenkins to Mrs Christiane Bardoux, Secrétariat general, Commission européenne (9 October 2000)
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/ltrcloning.htm>
* Therapeutic Uses of Cloning and Embryonic Stem Cells (position paper, September 2000)
[www.cec-kek.org/English/Clonin48.htm](http://www.wcc-coe.org/7www.cec-kek.org/English/Clonin48.htm)
* A Theological Framework for Bioethics (position paper, January 2002) <http://www.cec-kek.org/English/Bioethictheol.htm>
* A brief presentation of the Working Group on Bioethics (January 2002)<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/bioethshortE.htm>
* Genetically Modified Food, (report, January 2002)
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/Gmfood.htm>
* Xenotransplantation, (report, June 2002)
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/cq0228e.htm>
* Genetic Testing and Predictive Medicine, October 2003
***English***
Conference of European Churches
Commission for Church and Society Working Group on Bioethics
“Genetic testing and predictive medicine”
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/BioethGeneticTesting.pdf>
***French***
Conférence des Eglise européennes
Commission Eglise et Société
Group de Travail sur la Bioéthique
« Les tests génétiques et la médecine prédictive »
[http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/BioethTests Genetiques.pdf](http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/BioethTests%20Genetiques.pdf)
* Update on the working group on Bioethics
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/UpdateBioethicsworkinggroup.htm>
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<http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/bioethshortF.htm>
* “Human Life in our Hands? Churches and Bioethics” Results of a consultation organized by the CEC in Strasbourg, 27-29 November 2003
<http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/BioethiconfmessageF.pdf>
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“La vie humaine entre nos mains? Eglises et Bioéthique” Résultats d’une conférence organisée par la KEK à Strasbourg du 27 au 29 novembre 2003
<http://www.cec-kek.org/Francais/BioethconfprogF.pdf>
* Contribution to the Euthanasia debate at the Council of Europe, January 2004
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/Euthanasia.htm>

**National Council of Churches**

**National Council of Churches of Christ
in the USA**

* Resolution of the November 2002 General Assembly of the NCC establishing the Exploratory Commission
[www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics](http://www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics)
* Current, 1986 Policy of the NCC in PDF format
[www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/http./www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics)
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* Subgroup Proposal
[www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics](http://www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics)
* Report of the National Council of Churches: Exploratory Commission on Human Genetic Technologies to the NCC General Assembly November 2003
[www.ncccusa.org/pdfs/adoptedgeneticsreport.pdf](http://www.ncccusa.org/pdfs/adoptedgeneticsreport.pdf)
Direct Access to Member Communions’ Official Statements
(as of March 21, 2003):
[www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics/compendium.htm](http://www.electronicchurch.org/Genetics/compendium.htm)

**NCC Member Communions That Have No Statement on Human Genetic Engineering**
(as of March 21, 2003)
African Methodist Episcopal Church
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
The Alliance of Baptists in the USA
American Baptist Churches in the USA
Armenian Apostolic Church Diocese of America
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Coptic Orthodox Church
Friends United Meeting
Hungarian Reformed Church
International Council of Community Churches
Korean Presbyterian Church in America
Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
Mar Thoma Syrian Church of India
National Baptist Convention of America
National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
National Missionary Baptist Convention of America
Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in America
Polish National Catholic Church
Progressive National Baptist Convention
Swedenborgian Church
Syrian (Syriac) Orthodox Church in America

**The Canadian Council of Churches**
[www.ccc-cce-ca](http://www.ccc-cce-ca/)

* “Life: Patent Pending. A discussion guide on biotechnology and the Oncomouse”

**Joint Position Papers**

**Commissioners for Environmental Questions in the Protestant Regional churches in Germany
Commissioners for Environmental Questions in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Germany
Protestant Services for Rural Mission
Catholic rural Peoples’ Movement**
Güstrow 7.10.2003

* English
“Questions not solved – Promises not kept” Ten arguments against the use of genetically modified plants in food and agriculture”
[www.kirchlische-dienste.de/upload/gentechnik.en.pdf](http://www.kirchlische-dienste.de/upload/gentechnik.en.pdf)
German
Ungelöste Fragen – Uneingelöste Versprechen. 10 Argumente gegen die Nutzung von gentechnisch veränderten Pflanzen in Landwirtschaft und Ernährung
[www.kirchlische-dienste.de/upload/gentechnik.de.pdf](http://www.kirchlische-dienste.de/upload/gentechnik.de.pdf)

**Im auftrag des Evangelischen Oberkirchenrats A. und H.B.
der Evangelischen Kirche A. und H.B. in Österreich
erarbeitet von Ulrich H.J. Körtner
in Zusammenarbeit mit Michael Bünker**

**Angenonmmen von der Synode der Evangelischedn Kirche H.B. in Österriech, vom Theolgischen Ausschuss A. und H.B., vom Diakonieausschuss A. und H.B. und vom Synodalausschuss A.B.**

* German only
Verantwortung für das Leben. Eine evangelische Denkschrift zu Fragen der Biomedizin
[www.bka.gv.at/bka/bioethik/beitrag\_koertner.pdf](http://www.bka.gv.at/bka/bioethik/beitrag_koertner.pdf)

**Submitted to the House of Lords Select Committee on Stem Cell Research by an ad hoc group of Christian theologians from the Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox and Reformed traditions**
Submitted to the House of Lords, 1st June 2001.
Accepted for publication in Ethics & Medicine: An International Journal of Bioethics, 17:3 (Fall 2001).

* “Theologians' Brief On the place of the human embryo within the Christian tradition & the theological principles for evaluating its moral status”
<http://www.linacre.org/atheol.html>
(See Section Topic Papers – The Human Embryo in Christian Tradition)

**A Joint Submission from the Church of England House of Bishops and the Roman Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to the House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics**

* Medical Ethics and Issues of Life and Death
“Euthanasia” and “Suicide”
[www.cofe.anglican.org/view/medical.html#EUTHANASIA](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/http./www.cofe.anglican.org/view/medical.html#EUTHANASIA)
* Medical Ethics and Issues of Life and Death
“Abortion”
[www.cofe.anglican.org/view/medical.html#ABORTION](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/view/medical.html#ABORTION)

**Prepared by a Working Group on behalf of the
Church Office of the Evangelical Church in Germany
and the Secretariat of the German Bishops’ Conference
(Vorbereitet von einer Arbeitsgruppe im Auftrag des Kirchenamtes der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland und des Sekretariats der Deutschen bischofskonferenz)**

* “How much should we know? Opportunities and risks of predictive medicine” on the occasion of Pro-Life Week 1997: “Every child deserves love. Accepting life instead of selecting it.” (Hannover/Bonn, April 1997)
* English
“Xenotransplantation. An aid to ethical discernment” (Hannover/Bonn, May 1998) Joint Texts No. 13
* German
“Xenotransplantation. Eine Hilfe zur ethischen Urteilsbildung.” Gemeinsame Texte 13
<http://www.ekd.de/EKD-Texte/2086_1633.html>
* “Organtransplantationen.” Erklärung der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz und des Rates der EKD, Gemeinsame Texte 1, 1990
<http://www.ekd.de/EKD-Texte/2064_organtransplantation_1990.html>

**Joint Declaration Of the Council of the Protestant Church
in Germany And the German Bishops’ Conference
In co-operation with the other member and guest churches of the Council of Christian churches
iIn the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West):**
Greek Orthodox Metropoly
Baptist Union
United Methodist Church
Old Catholic church
Mennonites
Moravian church
Syrian-Orthodox church
Old Reformed church of Lower Saxony
Free Evangelical church
Quakers
Independent Lutheran church
Christlicher Gemeinschaftsverband Mülheim/Ruhr GmbH
Salvation Army

* “God loves all that lives. Challenges and tasks for the protection of life” (Published in 1989 under the title “Gott ist ein Freund des Lebens. Herausforderungen und Aufgaben beim Schutz des Lebens”)

**Adopted by Synod of the Waldensian and Methodist Churches (Italy)**
“Ethical problems raised by Science” (August 26, 2000)

**Presbyterian, Methodist, Churches of Christ, Quakers / Churches' Agency on Social Issues**
Christian agency dealing with social, economic, ecological and political matters in Aotearoa New Zealand

* Bioethics
<http://www.casi.org.nz/issues/science/bioethics.htm>
* Genetic Engineering
<http://www.casi.org.nz/issues/science/genetic-engineering.htm>
* Interchurch Commission on Genetic Engineering. Closing Submission from the Interchurch Commission on Genetic Engineering, 15 March 2001
<http://www.casi.org.nz/gecommission/geclosingsub.html>
* Universal Declaration On The Human Genome And Human Rights
<http://www.casi.org.nz/statements/decgenome.htm>
* Genetic Engineering: Restraining Human Powers
<http://www.casi.org.nz/ge/jamesnash.html>
* Voluntary Euthanasia and New Zealand
<http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/Content/ResearchPapers/03-07VoluntaryEuthanasia.pdf>
* End-of-Life Issues / Questions raised by the Death with Dignity Bill 2003
A discussion paper for church groups and individuals
<http://www.casi.org.nz/publications/Euthanasia%20groups.htm>
* Euthanasia – Death with Dignity?
A personal exploration of the issues by David Simmers, Presbyterian Co-convenor, CASI
<http://www.casi.org.nz/publications/EUTHANASIA%20leaders.htm>
* Making Good Decisions In Biotechnology: Stem Cell Research, Cloning and Genetic Information
<http://www.casi.org.nz/publications/Good%20Decisions%20final.doc>

**Bioethics Centers**

**Church of Greece**
Center for Biomedical Ethics and Deontology
[www.bioethics.org.gr](http://www.bioethics.org.gr/)

**England and Wales**
The Linacre Centre exists to help Catholics, and others, explore and understand the Church's position on bioethical issues. Its perspective is informed by Catholic moral teaching; however, in defending such teaching it seeks also to appeal to non-religious, philosophical reasoning to enable dialogue with those of no religious faith. The Linacre Centre is the only Catholic centre for bioethics in the UK and Ireland. The Trustees of the Centre are the Catholic Archbishops of England and Wales.
The Centre offers:

* publications on bioethics
* public lectures, conferences and seminars for priests, nurses, doctors, teachers, and school and university students
* expert advice and consultancy for individuals, working parties and organisations such as the Catholic Bishops' Joint Bioethics Committee
* a bioethics reference library of over 6,000 titles, which is open to researchers
* presentations of the Catholic viewpoint on biomedical issues to Government committees and other official bodies.

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| Rev. Dr. Martin ROBRAWorld Council of ChurchesProgramme ExecutiveJustice, Peace and CreationGeneva, Switzerland | Dr. Gary VACHICOURASInstitute of Postgraduate Studies in Orthodox Theologyat the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical PatriarchateChemin de Chambésy 371292 ChambésySwitzerlandE-mail: orthodoxinstitute@yahoo.com |