

Shared Statement

As Christian churches, we need to address questions raised by medicine and science, including the relatively new, and constantly developing, field of genetic science. The Church has a responsibility, through God's call, to support life and oppose all that harms life, protecting all of creation. Through Christ, we know God incarnate in the world, and we know that being human involves both body and soul; all this is under our care. This responsibility means we need to listen to science and come to understand it, including genetic technologies as they emerge. We also need to speak to science, for these technologies affect life itself, the life of all. We live in a broken world, where genetic



sciences can be used to do either harm or good. In this conversation between faith and science, raised by genetic technologies, we acknowledge our limitations and approach our quest to understand the mysteries of creation with humility. Both our knowledge and our limitation bring us closer to God, reminding us of God's loving power.

We have approached this conversation not independently, as separate denominations, but working together out of our various Christian traditions. What unites us is greater than what divides us. We can do much work together, and can say much together, in our quest to understand the relationship between faith and

science. When we speak together authentically, the Church's voice is strengthened. This common voice, this fruit of our shared work and wisdom, reminds the wider society that churches cooperate and work together for the common good. At the same time, we come to understand each other better, and this we need to do.

Genetic technologies affect us all. We need careful communal reflection to meet the challenges of judging the good or harm made possible by such technologies. It is valuable to hear the interpretive wisdom of each Christian tradition. Our diverse voices and our shared voice can enrich the scientific conversation. It is beneficial to bring together the Body of Christ, of which all churches are part. By doing so, we help give

some answer to our longing for full Christian unity, echoing Jesus' prayer that all be one (John 17).

We are created in the image and likeness of God. Yet we fall short of God's original intention for us, and harm ourselves, and the world that God has given us to look after. We understand that the pursuit of knowledge in genetic science and other biotechnologies may yield many benefits for us to the glory of God, if we allow the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us in discerning the right paths to follow. But we also know that such knowledge may be used in evil ways, to abuse the weak and vulnerable and to destroy God's creation. As the Body of Christ, we must heed God's calling to protect God's creation and uphold the equal value of all human life. We believe that in the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, good ultimately triumphs over evil.

Together in this faith and understanding, we present the following curriculum on Faith and Genetics as a guide to addressing theological and ethical concerns raised by genetic technologies.