**Faith and Genetics Workshop November 1**

Relevant sections from the document When Christian Faith and Genetics Meet: A Practical Group Resource for our workshop on Saturday November 1:

**10.00 Genetics, Faith and Human Dignity**

**Genetic Technologies – Genetics, Faith and Human Dignity** – It is claimed that our genome is important in a way that everything else isn’t. The claim states that our genetic material is the primary determinant of who and what we are. How do we respond to such a claim? Does genetic science or science in general say all there is to say about being human?

**11.00 Four Conversations: A Dialogue Cafe**

**Genetic Technologies- Information and Personal Identity** – We are now able to test for well over a thousand genetic diseases, disorders and traits. New tests are developed almost every day. You can now get a kit to test your own genes. What is the ‘big idea’ embedded in genetic technology? Is it that everything of value to us can be discovered in the structure and function of our genes?

**Genetic Technologies – Research on Human and non-Human Species** – There is no doubt that genetic research is generating promising new treatments for diseases: growing organs for transplants. Research can be done on adult stem cells and embryonic stem cells. How are genetic technologies being used and likely to be used in the future? What are the ethical issues involved?

**Genetic Technologies – Engineering of Future Generations** – is genetic engineering inevitable? Francis Crick, one of the discoverers of the overall structure of DNA, calls our current method of reproduction “roulette”. Does this imply that anyone who does not take advantage of the new technologies is simply foolish? What are the ethical boundaries for genetic testing?

**Genetic Technologies – and Social Justice** – what are the implications for society as a whole? What are the implications for health care in Canada? How do you decide who should be eligible for genetic testing under our health care system? If genetic technologies are publicly funded what health service could be displaced? Will genetic testing change our attitudes to disability?

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