The Assemblies of God has always held that the life of unborn persons must be protected. However, our concern does not end at birth; our concern for the mothers and their children continues after birth. At the same time, we also have compassionate concern for those women that chose to end their pregnancy.

The District Council has prepared the following list of abortion-related ministry resources to assist churches in ministering to those that are facing (or have faced) these circumstances.

### Life Affirming Resources

The Church is uniquely placed to create a culture that affirms the Imago Dei (Image of God) at every stage of life. Intentionally and strategically providing life-affirming resources within the local church will build an environment where:

- Those struggling with an unplanned pregnancy will choose life due to the support and love of the church.
- Those struggling with the pain of a past abortion decision will find healing and wholeness.
- Those in an unplanned parenting situation can find support, encouragement, and hope.

Please find the resources below as you provide life-affirming support at your church.

#### From the National Assemblies of God

- Read the Assemblies of God Position Paper on Sanctity of Human Life: Abortion and Reproductive Issues. Click <u>HERE.https://ag.org/beliefs/position-papers/abortion-sanctity-of-human-life</u>
- Superintendent Doug Clay's Prayer for the Sanctity of Human Life and Abortion, click <u>HERE</u>.https://news.ag.org/es-ES/Features/New-York-Passes-RHA-10-Ways-To-Pray

### **Post-Abortion Healing**

Offering post-abortion healing, whether internal or a trusted referral to a local pregnancy resource center, brings healing to the entire church body.

- Most Pregnancy Centers offer post-abortion healing Bible Studies and can be a great resource for you. To find a center near you, click <u>HERE</u>https://www.heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directoryor <u>HERE</u>. https://resources.care-net.org/find-a-pregnancy-center/
- In-person day of healing: *Truth Ministries: Precious Gifts Class*. This class is designed for after-abortion care for women and men who desire to be healed from guilt, shame, suppressed grief, unforgiveness, secret scars, and deep-rooted pain. They give individuals the opportunity to honor and bring dignity to their baby, who was lost through abortion or miscarriage. For more information, please click <a href="HERE">HERE</a>. https://truthministries.co/
- In-person weekend of emotional and spiritual healing from a past abortion experience: HOPE Retreat for those who may feel alone with the memories of their experience. They may have taken all those complicated feelings surrounding their decision and stuffed them down, hoping they would someday just go away. But they haven't. During our weekend HOPE Retreat, we gather as a small group of 5-8 who have experienced the struggle with an abortion decision. Together, we will process the painful thoughts and emotions like guilt, anger, shame, unforgiveness, regret, and depression. Healing and restored hope is possible. Click <a href="HERE">HERE</a> to schedule your retreat.https://livingwellmedicalclinic.com/after-abortion-assistance/
- Post-abortion healing curriculum for women and men: *Surrendering the Secret*. Surrendering the Secret (STS) is a ministry designed to help women and men heal from the hurt of abortion. Abortion affects people of all walks of life. At STS, they provide resources for those that have had abortions as well as training for facilitators. For their training and curriculum, please click HERE.https://surrenderingthesecret.com/
- Post-abortion healing curriculum for women and men: Save One: A Guide to
   Emotional Healing After Abortion. The local church should be the first place people
   turn to for help, not the last. Pastors will have a tool to deal with the abortion issue
   from the pulpit using love and acceptance, not judgment and condemnation. For their
   training and information, or to start a chapter in your church,
   click HERE.https://saveone.org/store
- Post-abortion healing curriculum for women: Forgiven and Set Free. Forgiven and
  Set Free, an inspired Bible study that can be used by individual women or a group,
  effectively ministers God's healing grace to women suffering remorse and guilt after an
  abortion. For more information, click <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Forgiven-Set-Free-Post-Abortion-Bible/dp/080105723X">https://www.amazon.com/Forgiven-Set-Free-Post-Abortion-Bible/dp/080105723X</a>

- Post-abortion healing curriculum for men: Healing a Father's Heart. Abortion inflicts pain on men as well as women. These fathers are "silent, wounded warriors" suffering from fear, anxiety, anger, guilt, grief, and depression. Men who have lost a child to abortion often have an unexplainable need to defend their masculinity, causing confusion and strife in their relationships. For more information, click <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Healing-Fathers-Heart-Post-Abortion-Bible/dp/0801057221/ref=pd\_lpo\_2?pd\_rd\_i=0801057221&psc=1">https://www.amazon.com/Healing-Fathers-Heart-Post-Abortion-Bible/dp/0801057221/ref=pd\_lpo\_2?pd\_rd\_i=0801057221&psc=1</a>
- Post-abortion training and resources: Support After Abortion. Their vision is to end
  the demand for abortion by healing those impacted by abortion. Support After Abortion
  is a catalyst to inspire compassion among people, promote collaboration with leaders,
  and build capacity for programming. For more information, click
  HERE.https://supportafterabortion.com/

### Miscarriage Support

- Anchored: A Bible Study for Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Infant Loss by Erin Cushman. Anchored invites you to grieve in an honest and faith-filled way. With personal stories, seasoned insight, and gentle questions, you are invited to lay your deepest hurt at the foot of the cross and allow God to anchor your brokenness. To purchase, click <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Anchored-Bible-Miscarriage-Stillbirth-Infant/dp/151270766X/ref=sr\_1\_1?crid=3ONBP869HZFN6&keywords=anchored+miscarriage&qid=1659970859&s=books&sprefix=anchored+miscarriag%2Cstripbooks%2C274&sr=1-1</a>
- Grace Like Scarlett by Adriel Booker: Adriel tackles complex questions about faith, suffering, and God's will with sensitivity and clarity, devoid of religious clichés or pat answers. Ultimately, Adriel invites you to a wide-open place of grace, honesty, and genuine hope as you discover a redemption story unfolding in the shadows of your loss. She also includes practical resources to help guide children through grief, advice on pregnancy after loss, and special sections for dads and loved ones. To purchase, click HERE. https://adrielbooker.com/books/
- Miscarriage Hurts: Hope After Loss. A confidential website for those who are touched by miscarriage, whether the experience happened recently or years ago. It is a refuge for those who wish to tell their story and begin the process of healing. Click HERE.https://www.miscarriagehurts.com/

#### **Pregnancy Loss Memorial**

Sacramento Memorial Garden. The mission of the Sacramento memorial Garden is to glorify the Lord through a peaceful garden to honor and memorialize those lost through miscarriage, stillbirth, and abortion. For more information, click <a href="HERE">HERE</a>. https://sacunbornmemorial.org/

#### Adoption

Lifetime Adoption Center. They create a custom adoption plan for birthmothers. Since 1986, they've helped to connect birth parents and adoptive families to create bright futures for their children. There's never any cost for expectant mothers. For more information, click <a href="https://lifetimeadoption.com/">https://lifetimeadoption.com/</a>

### Supporting Single Mothers and their Families

*Embrace Grace*. Embrace Grace exists to help inspire and equip the church to love and encourage single and pregnant young women and their families. Women experiencing unexpected pregnancies receive practical, spiritual, and emotional support through support groups.

Through the message of love, women are being helped to see that they can have their baby and their dreams too! Being pro-life is a stance, a belief system, a vote. And it's important. But being pro-love is an action, the boots on the ground, the hands and feet of Jesus, the church. For more information, click HERE.https://embracegrace.com/

### **Training & Education**

- eBook: Life Tribe Creating a Culture for Life. Download a free eBook and be empowered to create a culture for life at your church. Learn: How Abortion Affects the Church, Why Churches Don't Engage & Why They Need To, How To Bring Change, Resource Guide, Messaging Ideas, Next Steps. For your free copy, click HERE. https://lifetribeinfo.org/start-here/
- eBook: Life Tribe Ministry Manual. To start a life-affirming ministry at your church, download your free Ministry Manual for ideas to get started. Click <u>HERE</u>. https://lifetribeinfo.org/next-steps/

- Care Net's *Making Life Disciples*. MLD is a simple, easy-to-access basic training that allows your church to begin a non-political, holistic, gospel-centered approach to caring for the abortion-vulnerable. This training teaches people in your church how to offer practical help and discipleship to people who are in the midst of making difficult pregnancy decisions. For more information, click HERE.https://www.makinglifedisciples.com/
- Book: Why Can't We Say the "A" Word in Church by Joni Williams Shepherd. Joni raises a call to the Church, and particularly to those in spiritual authority, to break the chains of silence and shame that have bound the victims of one of modern history's greatest moral catastrophes, abortion. Click HERE.https://smile.amazon.com/Why-Cant-Say-Word-Church/dp/1793142904/ref=sr\_1\_1?crid=U8P3IOI7V248&keywords=Why+we+can%27t+say+the+A+word+in+church+joni+williams+shepherd&qid=1654106133&sprefix=why+we+can%27t+say+the+a+word+in+church+joni+williams+%2Caps%2C613&sr=8-1
- Book: Is There Not A Cause by Sheila Harper. Sheila dispels the biggest myths surrounding the abortion issue and shows pointedly how we can take back the fight for life! This book is the pastor's answer to a tangible course of action with the abortion issue. You can speak up about this cause with love, not politics; acceptance, not rejection. Use this book to learn how you can reach out to this huge portion of our population sitting right on our church pews week after week but yet suffering the aftermath of abortion in silence. Click <a href="https://saveone.org/store#product-7">HERE</a>.https://saveone.org/store#product-7
- Book: Stand for Life by John Ensor and Scott Klusendorf. A manual for young people that addresses tough questions about abortion in a concise and straightforward manner. Empower young people to understand the sanctity of human life and develop a Christian response to abortion. Click HERE.https://smile.amazon.com/Stand-Life-Answering-Making-Saving/dp/1619701170/ref=sr\_1\_1?crid=UUA136JZDMMX&keywords=stand+for+life+sc ott+klusendorf&qid=1654106403&sprefix=stand+for+life+scott+klusendor%2Caps%2C2 33&sr=8-1
- Teacher and Student Guides: Courageously Pro-Life by Sarah Bowen. Learn about tough topics like abortion, euthanasia, and eugenics. Examine your role in this movement and discover practical steps you can take to relegate abortion, euthanasia, and eugenics to the ash heap of history. Click HERE. https://smile.amazon.com/Courageously-Pro-life-Equipping-Believers-Transform/dp/1973670534/ref=sr\_1\_3?keywords=courageously+pro+life&qid=1659978 979&sr=8-3

- Book: Answering the Call: Saving Innocent Lives One Woman at a Time by
  John Ensor. A life-affirming message for those who counsel couples facing an unplanned
  pregnancy. Encouraging readers to reach out with compassion and sensitivity, Ensor
  offers updated scientific knowledge, practical applications, and theological insights to
  help you gently guide women to choose life and prospective fathers to protect and
  provide for their children—especially those in the womb. To purchase, click
  HERE.https://smile.amazon.com/Answering-Call-Saving-InnocentLives/dp/1589971523/ref=tmm\_pap\_swatch\_0?\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659973274&sr=
  8-8
- Book: Pregnancy Crisis Intervention: What to Do and Say When It Matters by John Ensor. Whether you're a volunteer at a pregnancy center, a counselor, or simply a family member or friend who knows a pregnant woman in crisis, Pregnancy Crisis Intervention examines what a pregnancy crisis is and will help you know with confidence what to do and say when it matters most. To purchase, click HERE. https://www.amazon.com/Pregnancy-Crisis-Intervention-What-Matters/dp/1683072073/ref=sr\_1\_3?crid=25BUZWD29PMOM&keywords=John+ensor&qid=1659973426&sprefix=john+enso%2Caps%2C209&sr=8-3
- Video: *The Baby Olivia Project*. Baby Olivia was created by Live Action and reviewed by accredited OBGYNs to show audiences the spectacular life of a baby growing within the womb. With scientific accuracy, this video depicts the moment life begins and beyond to show the humanity of the preborn throughout each stage of human development. For more information, click HERE.https://babyolivia.liveaction.org/

### **Pregnancy Resource Centers**

Pregnancy Resource Centers outnumber abortion clinics by about three to one. They are
usually faith-based and are powerful organizations on the front-lines journeying through
life with their clients. They often offer services such as options for education, pregnancy
tests, limited obstetric ultrasounds, post-abortion healing and support, parenting and
life skill classes, and more—all free of charge. Partnership between the local church and
pregnancy resource centers is invaluable. To find a pregnancy resource center near you,
click <a href="https://www.heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory">HERE</a>.
https://resources.care-net.org/find-a-pregnancy-center/

### **Informative Messages and Blogposts**

- Praying and Working for Justice: Abortion sermon by David Platt.
   Click HERE.https://radical.net/message/praying-and-working-for-justice-abortion/
- Abortion and Abundant Life sermon by Roland Warren and David Platt.
   Click HERE.https://radical.net/sermon/abortion-and-abundant-life/
- The Life Difference Makers sermon by Tim Hawks. Click HERE. https://www.hcbc.com/watch/?v=MEQ0MEJGOUU0MQ&hrm=1&utm\_campaign=Making%20Life%20Disciples&utm\_medium=email&\_hsmi=215684328&\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-\_-Dz\_zDYUXvKld2R8HOR4gUgVVj5XCVLMqKac-oCpFrFcUtfJBoxlT-i3DC-4woOn55VHJWBevrHSKSk8NbY\_MeQsA9w&utm\_content=215683920&utm\_source=hsemail
- Facts on Abortion. Click <u>HERE</u>.https://www.carenet.org/hubfs/Downloads/Top 40 Abortion Statistics.pdf
- Blogpost for Pastors. Click <u>HERE</u>.https://www.care-net.org/abundant-life-blog/why-churches-should-step-up-with-abortion-ministry

#### Information Brochures

There are many brochures you can ascertain that may be helpful for initial discussions. Please visit Focus on the Family by clicking <u>HERE</u> to find brochures (also available in Spanish) on the following topics:https://store.focusonthefamily.com/pregnancy-resource-centers/

- First Nine Months
- Healthy Pregnancy
- The Abortion Pill
- Embracing Hope: After Miscarriage
- Healing the Hurt: Post-abortion
- What I Didn't Know About Adoption