

PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

A – EDUCATION

NAME OF SCHOOL AND ADDRESS	YEARS	COURSE EMPHASIS MAJOR	GPA	DATE GRAD	DEGREE
High School	From				
	To				
College	From				
	To				
College	From				
	To				
Bible School or Training	From				
	To				
Technical Training	From				
	To				
Other	From				
	To				

Aviation Ratings Held

	Type	Date Earned	Total Hours
Pilot			
Mechanic			
Instructor			
Other			

List any educational courses, workshops or seminars attended:

List any other skills or training that you have (include military service): _____

What hobbies or interests do you have? _____

Are you proficient with MS Office? _____

B –HEALTH

What physical activities do you enjoy? _____

Do you or any immediate family members have any health issues or dietary restrictions? _____

C- EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

EMPLOYER NAME AND ADDRESS	DATES	SUPERVISOR NAME/TITLE	TYPE OF WORK
Name	From		
Phone:	To		
REASON FOR LEAVING:			
Name	From		
Phone:	To		
REASON FOR LEAVING:			
Name	From		
Phone:	To		
REASON FOR LEAVING:			

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT AND MISSIONS PHILOSOPHY

A – CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Home Church: _____	Church you are currently attending (if different): _____
Are you a member? ☐ Yes ☐ NO	_____
Street or Box _____	Street or Box _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
E-Mail _____	E-Mail _____
Pastor's Name _____	Pastor's Name _____

What ministries are you currently involved with, and how have you served in the past?

Have you spoken publicly in church before? _____

Have you contacted your pastor, missions committee, or other church leaders regarding your interest in Mission Aviation? ☒ YES ☐ NO

Are you currently financially supporting any ministries or individual missionaries ? _____

Why are you interested in MATA?

How long do you see yourself serving in ministry? _____

Have you researched any sending mission organizations? Please list those you are considering below:

Have you considered a mission organization or location where you'd like to serve (okay if unsure): _____

B – UNDERSTANDING OF MISSIONS

What is the gospel?

What kind of experience have you had in evangelism?

Briefly define missions as you understand it:

Have you ever traveled outside the US? ☐ YES ☐ NO If yes, please indicate where, for how long, and for what purpose:

Are you conversational in a foreign language? _____

Why do you want to be involved in mission aviation work?

Living on the mission field requires a person to be flexible. Give a definition of flexibility and an example where you have been flexible:

PERSONAL PROFILE

A – PERSONAL FAITH JOURNEY Please write a description of the following: (here and the next page)

1. How and when did you come to know Jesus Christ as Savior?
2. Since then, what actions have you taken to grow in your spiritual journey?
3. How do you maintain your present relationship with Him?
4. How were you called into ministry?

B – LIFESTYLE QUESTIONS

While these lifestyle choices may not exclude you from acceptance for training with MATA, they may disqualify you from some sending mission organizations.

Have you ever been divorced? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please explain: _____

Do you use tobacco products? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please explain: _____

Do you regularly consume alcoholic beverages? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please explain: _____

Do you use recreational/non-prescription drugs? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please explain: _____

Would you be willing to give up any personal habits which might negatively influence fellow students/instructors?

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please explain: _____

Have you visited a pornographic website in the last 2 years ? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Is that an ongoing area of temptation/sin for you? ☐ YES ☐ NO Please explain: _____

Do you have a plan to maintain your sexual integrity? ☐ YES ☐ NO Please explain: _____

Is there someone to whom you are accountable spiritually at the present time? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please explain: _____

Are there areas of sin in your life that would disqualify you from serving in fulltime ministry? _____

C – FINANCES

Are you carrying any debt load? credit card _____ car payment _____ student loan _____ other _____

Are you currently making enough money to meet your financial needs? _____

What is your plan for financing your flight training? _____

Have you ever raised financial support? _____

Do you own a house or business that could distract from a missionary commitment? _____

SOP AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

Please read MATA's Standard Operating Procedures Chapter 8 and the MATA Statement of Faith on the following pages, then sign the acknowledgment form at the end.

MATA STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)

Chapter 8

Students

1. Student/Renter Responsibilities Concerning Use of MATA Aircraft and Programs

1.1. Insurance – Insurance coverage and requirements for MATA and students are as follows:

1.1.1. MATA Insurance – MATA-authorized pilots flying MATA aircraft for authorized purposes are insured individuals under our liability insurance policy, with \$1,000,000 liability and \$150,000 per seat. If a mishap occurs during an instructional flight with an authorized instructor in a crew seat, MATA will assume responsibility for aircraft damage.

1.1.2. Student Insurance – MATA strongly recommends that students obtain a non-owner/renter insurance policy with coverage of \$20,000 for aircraft damage (hull coverage), \$50,000 for bodily injury, and \$500,000 for property. Avemco, AOPA, and BWI are three popular aviation insurance companies.

1.2. Aircraft Use – MATA aircraft are only available for MATA business, flight instruction, and rental to others only for personal and pleasure uses, including flights for which there is cost reimbursement. Any operation for hire or reward is excluded.

1.3. Flight Bag – Students must maintain a current and complete flight bag as specified for the particular rating or certificate. This will include a headset, charts, plotter, FAR/AIM, E-6B computer, notepads, pens and pencils, FAA textbooks, and any other item deemed necessary for that course of study. Electronic flight bags (EFB's) are strongly encouraged with ForeFlight being recommended. However, MATA reserves the right to disable "ownship" on student EFB's for flight training purposes.

2. Other Student Responsibilities

2.1. Application Fee – Students must pay a non-refundable \$200 dollar application fee for each rating or certificate: PPL, Instrument Rating, CPL, CFI, CFII, and Technical Evaluation.

2.2. Account Balance – Students must maintain a minimum refundable balance of \$200 on account during training.

2.3. Student pilots shall obtain an IACRA account (Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application). Student pilots must meet with a MATA Flight instructor to create an account if one does not already exist.

2.4. Student ID cards/access cards must be worn at all times when the student is on MATA premises.

2.5. SOPs – Students must read, sign, and follow all MATA Standard Operating Procedures that are relevant to the student's position as follows:

2.5.1. Flight students – Chapters 5: *Flight*, 6: *Contingency Response*, and 8 *Students (this chapter)*

- 2.5.2. Maintenance students – Chapter 7: *Maintenance, and 8 Students (this chapter)***
- 2.6. Prayer Letter** – Students should maintain a personal mailing list of friends/family/supporters and send at least quarterly prayer letters/newsletters.
- 2.7. Photos and Videos** – Students must agree that MATA is automatically given permission to use photos and video recordings of participants that were taken during MATA operations for promotional purposes without compensation.
- 2.8. Attendance & Punctuality** – Students are expected to be at MATA on the days they are scheduled for training, and to arrive on time. If a student is sick on a scheduled training day, he must have two-way communication with the instructor to inform him.
- 2.9. Use of Study Room** – Students should use our study room at the facility unless other plans have been approved by the instructor.
- 2.10. Teachability** – Students are expected to exhibit a heart of teachability.
- 2.11. Statement of Faith** – Students must read and acknowledge MATA’s Statement of Faith as amended by the Board on March 14, 2017. Students must live a lifestyle (including any online presence) of abiding by the Scriptural principles contained therein.
- 2.12. Church** – Involvement with and regular attendance at a home church and/or area church are required during training and service at MATA.
- 2.13. Bible Study** – Students must attend and participate in MATA’s Friday-night Bible studies. Missing three studies without Executive Director permission will result in disenrollment.
- 2.14. Pilot Safety Meetings** – Students must attend the pilot safety meetings typically on the first Saturday of each month. Failure to attend without Executive Director or Chief Flight Instructor permission will result in disenrollment.
- 2.15. Extracurricular MATA Activities** – Students are encouraged to participate in MATA’s extracurricular events, such as luncheons, open houses, missions conferences, fly-ins, etc. Additionally, students may have opportunity for community or ministry service projects.
- 2.16. Work Detail** – Students must volunteer 2 hours a month to hangar and aircraft maintenance, which allows an opportunity to serve and foster a heart of service, and helps MATA provide training at a reduced cost. Work could include assisting the Maintenance Department on MATA aircraft, washing aircraft, sweeping/mopping hangar floor, vacuuming the office, etc. Work details are typically assigned after pilot safety meetings.
- 2.17. FAA Standards** – Students must ultimately meet FAA standards set forth in the Airman Certification Standards (ACS) for each certificate/rating [the Practical Test Standards (PTS) for the Flight Instructor certificate] in order to earn the certificate/rating. Therefore, in the building-block (or “stage”) training courses, students must meet syllabus standards to pass each required stage check in order to advance in their training. Failure to meet syllabus standards after reasonable extra training will result in removal from MATA’s flight training program.
- 3. Training Progress** – At MATA, it is our goal to help our students succeed in their flight training goals so that God will be glorified through the use of aviation in the mission field. In helping our students

succeed, it sometimes becomes necessary for us to review the expectations that were agreed upon when accepted to MATA, explain areas that need additional improvement, and give fair warning of the outcome of not improving and meeting those expectations within the timeline given by the Instructor or Executive Director. If a student is not progressing in training, either by insufficient effort or by inability despite great effort, the following action(s) will result:

- 3.1. Review and Warning** – If a student is unable to meet FAA standards or fails to meet MATA requirements, the Chief Flight Instructor and/or Executive Director will meet with the student for a review to discuss what improvements must be made and what steps should be taken in an attempt to correct the situation. This discussion will be documented on our MATA Review and Warning Notice.
- 3.2. Disenrollment** – If, after a review, the student does not demonstrate the required improvement within the agreed-upon timeframe, the student will be disenrolled from MATA's flight training program and funds remaining on the student's account (except scholarships) will be refunded to the student.

STATEMENT OF FAITH
Mission Aviation Training Academy
(as amended, 14 March 2017)

STATEMENT OF FAITH: THE HOLY BIBLE

The Holy Bible is the complete written Word of God and has been preserved to us by the Holy Spirit for our salvation and instruction. The Bible is our only authentic and infallible source of God's revelation, and is the only inerrant and completely adequate source and norm of Christian doctrine and life. The Bible, as a whole and in all its parts, is the Word of God, regardless of man's attitude toward it. The ancient ecumenical symbols, namely the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds are a true expression of the Christian faith and life as revealed in the Scripture. We reject any affiliations or associations which do not accept the Bible alone as definitive for the life of the believer. Mission Aviation Training Academy exists for the purpose of promoting the message of the Gospel through the equipping and training of missionaries, missionary candidates, and other Christian workers.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
(This Statement of Faith is from the National Association of Evangelicals; www.nae.net)

STATEMENT OF FAITH: MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

Introduction

We believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Holy Scripture, which is our infallible guide (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Since the Holy Bible does speak to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what the Bible teaches on these matters.

We are committed to the home and family as set forth in Holy Scripture. We believe God has ordained and created marriage to exist between one man and one woman, with absolute marital fidelity. The Bible sets forth specific home and family values, which include the distinct roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and children. It is our firm conviction that we uphold

the dignity of each individual as we embrace the unchanging and longstanding principles of scriptural truth.

Religious Beliefs

Based on Holy Scripture and the constant moral teaching of the universal Church, we believe:

Marriage – MATA defines marriage as the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of one man and one woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-9, Mark 10:5-9, Ephesians 5:31-33)

Sexual Immorality – MATA believes that sexual acts outside marriage are prohibited as sinful. Consequently, MATA members, staff, employees, volunteers, and students/trainees must resist and refrain from any and all sexual acts outside marriage – including but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, zoophilia, pornography, prostitution, masturbation, voyeurism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, sodomy, polygamy, polyamory, sologamy, or same-sex sexual acts. (Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, Leviticus 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 15:19, Matthew 5:27-28, Matthew 15:19, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:17-19, Colossians 3:5)

Sexual Identity – MATA believes that God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, MATA members, staff, employees, volunteers, and students/trainees must affirm their biological sex and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex – including but not limited to elective sex-reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or non-binary “genderqueer” acts or conduct. (Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Sexual Orientation – MATA believes that God created and ordered human sexuality to the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of man and woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. Consequently, MATA members, staff, employees, volunteers, and students/trainees must affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct, which are intrinsically disordered. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2)

Sexual Redemption – MATA believes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and should seek redemption through confession, repentance, baptism, and faith in Jesus Christ. Consequently, MATA members, staff, employees, volunteers, and students/trainees must welcome and treat with respect, compassion, and sensitivity all who experience same-sex attractions or confess sexually immoral acts but are committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality, and conforming their behavior to MATA’s Statement of Faith. (Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-10, I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16)

Celibacy – MATA believes that Holy Scripture grants two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior: (1) the conjugal “one flesh” marital union of one man and one woman, and (2) celibacy. Either is a gift from God, given as He wills for His glory and the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them. Celibacy and faithful singleness is to be celebrated and affirmed within MATA. (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:5-8; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-8; Matthew 19:12; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 12:10; 1 Timothy 5:1-2)

Holy Scripture
Marriage and Human Sexuality

Genesis 1:26-28	Matthew 15:19	Ephesians 5:31
Genesis 2:18-24	Matthew 19:4-9	Colossians 3:5
Genesis 19:5-10	Mark 10:5-9	1 Thessalonians 4:3
Exodus 20:14	Romans 1:26-27	Hebrews 13:4
Leviticus 18:7-23	1 Corinthians 6:9-13	1 Timothy 1:8-10
Leviticus 20:10-21	1 Corinthians 5:11	Jude 1:7
Deuteronomy 5:18	Galatians 5:19	Revelation 19:7-9
Judges 19:22-24	Ephesians 4:17-19	Revelation 21:2
Matthew 5:27-28	Ephesians 5:25-27	

Pastoral Care

Matthew 11:28-30	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 2:17-18
Romans 3:23	1 Corinthians 10:13	Hebrews 4:14-16

Application

All of our members, staff, employees, volunteers, and students/trainees must affirm and adhere to this Doctrinal and Religious Absolute statement on marriage and human sexuality to qualify for involvement with the ministry. This is necessary to accomplish our religious mission, goals, and purpose. Behavior or counter-witnessing that does otherwise will impede and burden our integrity and religious mission. We believe that God’s grace can wipe the slate of guilt and sin, though the consequences are still incurred.

Authority

The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, acting as the source of authority over morality, our beliefs, Christian lifestyle and conduct. The MATA Board of Directors is charged with the ministerial responsibility of Biblical interpretation and promulgating religious policy. The MATA Board of Directors will determine life application as well as final matters relating to organizational theology, philosophy, Christian practice, faith, divine truth, morality, and theological and doctrinal resolutions.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: ABORTION

Introduction

We believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Holy Scripture, which is our inspired, infallible, and inerrant guide. (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Because Holy Scripture speaks to creation and human life, it is imperative that we correctly understand, articulate, and abide by what Holy Scripture teaches on this matter.

We believe that God has created mankind in His image (*Imago Dei*) and that human life begins at fertilization. God, in his infinite sovereignty, uniquely formed human beings and gave them a special dignity, personal freedom, and individual accountability among all the works of creation. Human beings have been made for relationship with God and to be good and faithful stewards of creation. God created each person's inmost being, knitting each person together in his mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13). As God's individualized and personal creation, each person is fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14). God has ordained all the days of each person's life before they came to be. (Psalm 139:16).

Religious Beliefs

Based on Holy Scripture and the constant moral teaching of the universal Church, we believe:

From the moment of fertilization until natural death, every human life is sacred because every human life has been created by God, in His image and likeness.

From the moment of fertilization, every human life must be recognized, respected, and protected as having the rights of a person and the inviolable right to life.

The right to life and physical integrity of every unborn human life is inviolable – it is not a concession made by society or the state, but is instead inherent to the unborn human life by virtue of its creation in the image of God.

Because human life begins at the moment of fertilization, it is against our religious and moral conviction to formally or materially cooperate in the termination of unborn human life.

We are strongly committed to the preservation and defense of unborn human life, which compels our religious, moral, and ethical duty to defend unborn human life from destruction, whether by surgical abortion or use of drugs, devices, or services which have the intent, design, effect, or risk of terminating unborn human life or preventing its implantation and growth post-fertilization.

The Church and all her ministers and ministries should publicly witness to society and to the state regarding the intrinsic, inherent, and inviolable dignity of all human life, from fertilization to natural death.

Holy Scripture

In standing against abortion, this organization incorporates by reference the following Holy Scriptures (NIV), which are cited in the statements, resolutions, commentaries, or doctrines of Christian denominations that are expressly and vocally opposed to abortion.

Genesis 1:26-27 – Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 25:21-22 – Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.

Exodus 20:13 – You shall not murder.

Psalms 22:9-10 – Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast. From birth I was cast on you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

Psalms 139:13-16 – For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Isaiah 44:1-2 – This is what the Lord says: he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

Isaiah 49:5 – And now the Lord says – he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength.

Job 10:8-12 – Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me? Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese, clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews? You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.

Jeremiah 1:4-5 – The word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

Luke 1:39-45 – Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am

I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Early Church Fathers’ Statements on Sanctity of Human Life

In standing against abortion, this organization is informed and instructed by the following statements by early Church fathers on the matter.

“Thus, you read the word of God, spoken to Jeremiah: ‘Before I formed thee in the womb, I knew thee.’ If God forms us in the womb, He also breathes on us as He did in the beginning: ‘And God formed man and breathed into him the breath of life.’ Nor could God have known man in the womb unless he were a whole man. ‘And before thou camest forth from the womb, I sanctified thee.’ Was it, then, a dead body at that stage? Surely it was not, for “God is the God of the living and not the dead.”

—Tertullian, *De Anima*

“It is not permissible for us to destroy the seed by means of illicit manslaughter once it has been conceived in the womb, so long as blood remains in the person.”

—Tertullian, *Apologia*

“Why sow where the ground makes it its care to destroy the fruit? Where there are many efforts at abortion? Where there is murder before the birth.... Why then dost thou abuse the gift of God, and fight with His laws, and follow after what is a curse as if a blessing, and make the chamber of procreation a chamber for murder, and arm the woman that was given for childbearing unto slaughter?”

—John Chrysostom, *Homily 24*

“[T]his lustful cruelty, or if you please, cruel lust, resorts to such extravagant methods as to use poisonous drugs to secure barrenness; or else, if unsuccessful in this, to destroy the conceived seed by some means previous to birth, preferring that its offspring should rather perish than receive vitality; or if it was advancing to life within the womb, should be slain before it was born.”

—Augustine, *De Nube et Concupiscentia*

“Therefore brothers, you see how perverse they are and hastening wickedness, who are immature, they seek abortion of the conception before the birth; they are those who tell us, ‘I do not see that which you say must be believed.’”

—Augustine, *Sermon 126*

“Thou shalt not slay the child by procuring abortion; nor, again, shalt thou destroy it after it is born.”

—Barnabas, *Letter*

More Recent/Contemporary Written Statements

In standing against abortion, this organization incorporates by reference the following statements, resolutions, commentaries, or doctrines of Christian denominations that are expressly and vocally opposed to abortion: Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Presbyterian Church in America, Roman Catholic Church, and Southern Baptist Convention.

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Our church's explanation of the Small Catechism puts the matter well when it says, "The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother." The sin of willfully aborting a child, except in those very rare situations where it may be necessary to save the life of the mother, is a sinful act, totally contrary to the will of God. (p. 1)

Since 1973, abortions have been legal in the United States. Abortion remains a sin against God, whether or not it is legal in our society; therefore, we must "obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

A personal decision is not necessarily a private decision. The church, and the church's ministers, have God-given responsibilities to warn, exhort and rebuke from the Word of God with all authority. (2 Tim. 4:2).

The church is very concerned when Christians make decisions that are contrary to the Word of God and thus place themselves outside the will of God. Living in a state of unrepentant sin is a very serious situation. Thus, the church must warn its members against the temptations of abortions. Furthermore, the church needs to speak out against the sin of abortion, since it is widely presented in our culture as perfectly acceptable.

Presbyterian Church in America

Abortion in distinction from miscarriage, and is the intentional killing of an unborn child between conception and birth. The moral question raised in any abortion is whether the life of the unborn child is included in the Biblical teaching respecting the sanctity of life. The special protection God gives to human life is founded upon His making man "in His own image." (Gen. 1:26, 27 (p. 14))

What we see revealed in Scripture is a marvelous truth, often expressed in doxological language, that there is a continuity of the individual man from "before the foundation of the world" into eternity. (Psalm 139, Luke 1:24-56, Gen. 25:22, Job 3:3, Isa. 44:2, 49:5, Hos. 12:3 (p.15))

In Psalm 51:5, the continuity extends back to the actual time of conception. "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." The point of continuity is David's humanness even at conception. To speak of oneself at conception in terms of personal sinfulness is to affirm one's humanity. (pp. 15-16)

Our obedience to the Word of God leaves us with no option regarding how we perceive the unborn child. He is a person, providentially given and cared for by God, with uninterrupted

continuity into post-natal life. There are many explicit and implicit passages of Scripture that further support this conclusion. (p. 18)

We are not given unlimited or autonomous sovereignty over our own bodies or the bodies of others. (1 Cor. 6:15, 7:7 (p. 18))

Scripture repeatedly affirms the joy and blessing of conception, while barrenness is seen as a curse. God's involvement with the unborn child has already been mentioned. We are even told that John the Baptist was "filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb." (Luke 1:15 (p.18))

These and many other references are adequately set forth in other studies. (p. 18)

Although there has been much discussion of when life begins, the scientific community does not seem to have much doubt on this issue. The question is usually raised to obscure the real issue, namely, that abortion is the intentional killing of a living unborn child. The conclusion of the First International Conference on Abortion held in Washington, D.C., in October of 1967, was that no point in time could be found between the union of sperm and egg and the birth of the infant which could not be considered human life. (p. 18)

It must be pointed out here that this developing baby is a separate but dependent new life with its own chromosomal pattern and at no stage of development can be considered as an appendage or part of the mother's own body. Physiologically it is the baby that determines the development of the pregnancy not the mother. The baby, however, is highly dependent upon its mother for protection and nourishment. (p. 20)

Roman Catholic Church

Abortion

2270 – Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person – among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."

"My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.

2271 – Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law:

"You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish."

"God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes.

2272 – Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life:

“A person who procures a completed abortion incurs excommunication *latae sententiae*,” “by the very commission of the offense,” and subject to the conditions provided by Canon Law.

The Church does not thereby intend to restrict the scope of mercy. Rather, she makes clear the gravity of the crime committed, the irreparable harm done to the innocent who is put to death, as well as to the parents and the whole of society.

2273 – The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation:

“The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority. These human rights depend neither on single individuals nor on parents; nor do they represent a concession made by society and the state; they belong to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of the creative act from which the person took his origin. Among such fundamental rights one should mention in this regard every human being's right to life and physical integrity from the moment of conception until death.”

“The moment a positive law deprives a category of human beings of the protection which civil legislation ought to accord them, the state is denying the equality of all before the law. When the state does not place its power at the service of the rights of each citizen, and in particular of the more vulnerable, the very foundations of a state based on law are undermined... As a consequence of the respect and protection which must be ensured for the unborn child from the moment of conception, the law must provide appropriate penal sanctions for every deliberate violation of the child's rights.”

2274 – Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being. Prenatal diagnosis is morally licit, “if it respects the life and integrity of the embryo and the human fetus and is directed toward its safe guarding or healing as an individual.... It is gravely opposed to the moral law when this is done with the thought of possibly inducing an abortion, depending upon the results: a diagnosis must not be the equivalent of a death sentence.”

2275 – “One must hold as licit procedures carried out on the human embryo which respect the life and integrity of the embryo and do not involve disproportionate risks for it, but are directed toward its healing the improvement of its condition of health, or its individual survival.”

“It is immoral to produce human embryos intended for exploitation as disposable biological material.”

“Certain attempts to influence chromosomic or genetic inheritance are not therapeutic but are aimed at producing human beings selected according to sex or other predetermined qualities. Such manipulations are contrary to the personal dignity of the human being and his integrity and identity,” which are unique and unrepeatable.

In Brief

2318 – “In [God's] hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind” (Job 12:10).

2319 – Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God.

2320 – The murder of a human being is gravely contrary to the dignity of the person and the holiness of the Creator.

2322 – From its conception, the child has the right to life. Direct abortion, that is, abortion willed as an end or as a means, is a “criminal” practice (GS 27 § 3), gravely contrary to the moral law. The Church imposes the canonical penalty of excommunication for this crime against human life.

2323 – Because it should be treated as a person from conception, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed like every other human being.

Southern Baptist Convention

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in New Orleans in June 1982, clearly stated its opposition to abortion and called upon Southern Baptists to work for appropriate legislation and/or constitutional amendment which will prohibit abortions except to save the physical life of the mother; and

WHEREAS, In addition to legislative remedies for this national sin, it is incumbent that we encourage the woman who is considering abortion to think seriously about the grave significance of such action by presenting information to her about the unborn child in her womb, who is a living individual human being, and encourage her to consider alternatives to abortion; and
WHEREAS, Christlike love requires that such alternatives be made available.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, June 12-14, 1984, encourage all of its institutions, cooperating churches, and members to work diligently to provide counseling, housing, and adoption placement services for unwed mothers with the specific intent of bringing them into a relationship with Jesus Christ and/or a sense of Christian responsibility; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we deplore the practice of performing abortions, as well as dispensing to minors without parental consent or even notification, contraceptive medications which have potentially dangerous side effects, and deplore also the use of tax funds for such activities; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we call upon all Southern Baptists to renew their commitment to support and work for legislation and/or constitutional amendment which will prohibit abortion except to save the physical life of the mother; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we encourage Southern Baptists to inquire whether or not their physicians perform abortions on demand or give referrals for abortions, and that we commend those of the medical profession who abstain from performing abortions or making abortion referrals; and

Be it finally RESOLVED, That we urge our agencies and institutions to provide leadership for our cooperating churches and members, by preparing literature to take a clear and strong stand against abortion, and to inform and motivate our members to action to eliminate abortion on demand.

Application

All of our members, staff, employees, volunteers, and students/trainees must affirm and adhere to this Statement of Faith on Abortion to qualify for involvement with the ministry of this organization. This is necessary to accomplish our religious mission, goals, and purpose. Behavior or counter-witnessing that does otherwise will impede and burden our integrity and religious mission, inviting scandal on this organization.

This organization believes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and should seek redemption through confession, repentance, baptism, and faith in Jesus Christ. Consequently, organization members must welcome and treat with respect, compassion, and sensitivity all who have endured the tragedy of abortion but are sincerely and resolutely committed to conform their behavior to this organization's Statement of Faith on Abortion.

Authority

Holy Scripture is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God, acting as the source of authority over morality, our beliefs, Christian lifestyle, and conduct. The MATA Board of Directors is charged with the ministerial responsibility of Biblical interpretation and application as well as determining final matters relating to organizational policies, Christian practice, faith, divine truth, morality, and theological and doctrinal resolutions.



SOP & STATEMENT OF FAITH ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I _____ have read and agree with the
Name of applicant and or spouse

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MATA STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: Chapter 8, Students

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MATA STATEMENT OF FAITH: The Holy Bible

☐

MATA STATEMENT OF FAITH: Fundamental Doctrines

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MATA STATEMENT OF FAITH: Marriage and Human Sexuality

☐

MATA STATEMENT OF FAITH: Abortion

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

SPOUSE SIGNATURE (if applicable)

DATE

APPLICATION COMPLETION & SUBMISSION

Once you have completed this application and signed in the space provided above, print a full copy and send by mail to:

MATA
PO Box 3655
Arlington, WA 98223