



From the *Clergy Advisory Group,*
Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region

You may be considering or have already made the decision to terminate a pregnancy. We, the Clergy Advisory Group of Planned Parenthood, represent diverse religious traditions. Even though coming from different theological perspectives, we share basic understandings about abortion that may inform your own perspective on yourself and your decisions around abortion.

We believe as religious persons that abortion is a morally permissible choice for women. If the world were ideal, we would encounter no situations in life that would move us to choose abortion. However, we live in a less than ideal world. There are many events that can occur in a woman's life, or in a family, that make a pregnancy difficult. These events might be medical, physical, emotional, economic, or relational in nature. Women choose abortion for many reasons. We support your right and your ability to choose what is best for you.

We believe as religious persons that no one can make a choice for or against abortion except the woman herself. No one knows the circumstances of your life as well as you. No one knows what is in your heart better than you. We trust that you have made your decision after serious thought and contemplation of the alternatives that exist for you. We trust that you have made the best decision you can in your personal circumstances. We do not believe that it is the right of other persons to judge you or your decision. We each possess the ability to think and feel and choose, and to find peace and confidence in the decisions we make.

We believe as religious persons that the decision to have an abortion will not change your relationship with whatever you consider to be the sacred. We believe in a loving and compassionate God, who does not expect us to be perfect or to live perfect lives. This loving God understands the struggles of our lives. This loving God accepts human beings with all their strengths and weaknesses, their shortcomings, their choices, and will not punish you for choosing to have an abortion. Instead, this loving, compassionate God can be a source of strength, understanding and comfort, love and grace, especially on days when you may doubt or feel distress.

We believe as religious persons that your life needs to go on from here, and that you are deserving of support and assistance. The decision to have an abortion may well be a difficult one. You may at times question this decision. You may experience doubt, depression, or sorrow. These are natural emotions. Experiencing them does not mean that you erred in your decision. However, these feelings may mean that you need to talk with someone about your decision and why you made it. It is important for you to find peace. If you do experience such feelings, we encourage you to seek support from friends or from professional counselors. If you would like pastoral support, Planned Parenthood can recommend a member of its Clergy Advisory Group to talk to at no charge. Please feel free to use this community resource. You can arrange an appointment by calling the administrative office listed on the reverse side.

We wish you peace in your heart and hope for the future.

Blessings!