September 14, 2021

Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church Adopted Resolution Concerning Vaccines:

Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church (GRPC) has deeply held religious views regarding vaccinations that are embodied in our constitution and explicitly expressed in the following resolution, which is certified to be a true and accurate copy of the wording in the official minutes of GRPC.

Whereas GRPC states in its constitution that “God alone is the Lord of the conscience” (Westminster Confession chapter 20);

And whereas, GRPC considers decisions regarding the taking or refusal of any vaccination to be determined by the liberty of conscience of the individual and the family, and not by the jurisdiction of the state or the church, according to biblical mandate;

And whereas, the bible teaches that the family and the church are legitimate governments distinct from the civil magistrate. Accordingly, we reject the subordination of the family and church to the State in matters that God has placed within their particular jurisdictions;

And whereas our religion’s doctrinal statements declare it to be a sin to needlessly endanger our health (Westminster Larger Catechism 136);

And whereas many Christians are concerned that some vaccines are developed and in its testing are using fetal tissues obtained from abortions;

And whereas GRPC considers all forms of deliberate abortion to be murder and to violate our most deeply held religious beliefs and requires all its members to be committed to avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any and to avoid “whatsoever else tends to the destruction of the life of any” (Westminster Larger Catechism 135-136);

And, whereas the Holy Scriptures give parents the responsibility of oversight and care for the physical and spiritual needs of their children (Deut. 6:7, Prov. 22:6, Eph. 6:1-3, Col. 3:20, 1 Tim. 5:8);

Therefore, be it resolved that GRPC maintains the firm conviction that any vaccination may be respectfully refused on religious grounds by any member of this church. Furthermore, GRPC appeals, urges, enjoins, and exhorts, by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is King over all governments and nations, that the refusal of any vaccination be left to the sphere and liberty of conscience of individuals and/or families.

Carel V van der Merwe

(Pastor: Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church)