

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

VOLUME 1

H. ETHICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Human reproductive technology

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INTRODUCTION

The church recognises that involuntary childlessness has become a burden to approximately 10-15 per cent of married couples; and the church knows that, because of the rapid advancements in various human reproductive technologies, childless couples may have an opportunity to form a family; and the church has a pastoral obligation to guide its members in their consideration of the moral aspects of reproductive procedures.

STATEMENT

Therefore the church

- a. supports scientific and social endeavours designed
 1. to assist and correct nature in the prevention of childlessness and
 2. to restore and maintain the possibility for married couples to form a family;
- b. approves of reproductive procedures which assist married couples with the generation of their child, but opposes those infertility treatments which deprive the child of the genetic heritage of its two parents who are to have social care and responsibility for it;
- c. rejects those reproductive procedures which involve intentional harm to and destruction of embryonic human beings; and therefore urges childless married couples to consider this in the light of the word of God before seeking technological assistance or medical treatment;
- d. upholds that God is the giver of marital, i.e. unitive and co-creative, love which is the authentic source of the generation of new life; that he hears and sustains those who bear the burden of involuntary childlessness; and therefore endeavours to render compassionate pastoral care and advice to those couples and individuals who cannot achieve natural [= biological] parenthood.