



# The Kansas Coalition for Life

5575 South Mosley Street, Wichita, Kansas 67216-3631  
Voice (316) 522-8866 FAX (316) 522-8833  
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For Immediate Release

Contact: Mark S. Gietzen

# ProLife Unity Group Draws a Line in the Sand at a History-changing Meeting

By Tracey Springhorn

**Wichita, KS** For the fourth time in two years, *The Kansas Coalition for Life (KCFL)* hosted the biannual meeting of the nation-wide ProLife Unity Group, in Wichita, Kansas.

A historic breakthrough occurred at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting when, after vigorous argument and discussion, the group, consisting of about 50% Catholics and 50% Protestants, decided to adopt the original (1974 version) LIFE PRINCIPLES, drafted by the national group: *March for Life*.

These key principles (attached as page-3) have, to some extent, divided Catholics and Protestants, and one proLife group from another, for over 30 years. The problem comes in dealing with the very early-term chemical abortions that occur in women who use any of the low-hormone-level birth control pills that are commonly thought of as contraceptives, when in reality they are abortifacient.

After vigorous debate, the vote was surprisingly a unanimous vote in favor of adopting the LIFE PRINCIPLES as a requirement for all member-groups who want to wear the "ProLife Unity" label in the future! This will affect the fundraising ability of proLife groups in the future.



**Peter Shinn of Herndon, VA, leader of the national ProLife Unity group, speaks as much with his hands as he does with his voice, as shown in this June 2007 photo.**

The lopsided vote followed a well reasoned and impassioned plea by Troy Newman, of Operation Rescue, (a Protestant) who compared the pending vote that the group was facing, with the decision that early Christians faced, when the "Apostle's Creed" was adopted. Early Christians, out of necessity, came up with the Apostle's Creed to define "*What does a Christian believe?*" Likewise, Troy argued, the proLife movement in America urgently needs to define; "*What exactly do we mean, when we call ourselves a proLife group?*"

Troy's comments resonated well! ProLifers nation-wide are aware that their recent political defeats in Colorado, South Dakota, and in the Sedgwick County, Kansas District Attorney's race, were **due entirely to division among proLife groups**, which caused confusion among a well-intended proLife majority among voters.

Thursday's ProLife Unity meeting finalized the four basic requirements that various proLife groups will have to agree to, in order to be part of ProLife Unity, and to use the PLU Logo in their fundraising and identifying materials. They are:

### **1. DO NO HARM TO OTHER PROLIFE GROUPS**

The intent of this item is to curtail malicious or destructive acts that one proLife organization can do to another. In the past, most such cases have been rooted in disagreements between two individuals, which spilled over and affected an entire organization.

In the future, ProLife Unity will have a mediation panel in place, to mediate these kinds of issues, to keep them from becoming seriously damaging to the ProLife Movement as a whole.

Failure to cooperate with ProLife Unity mediation would result in the loss of the ProLife Unity endorsement.

### **2. VOLUNTEER FREEDOM**

ProLife organizations, that want to be part of the ProLife Unity Group, will have to agree that its volunteers and employees have the freedom to work for other proLife groups, at any time of their choosing, without losing their ability to volunteer or work for the original proLife group. In other words, Group-A cannot threaten

volunteers, that if they work for Group-B, that they are no-longer welcome to do volunteer work for Group-A.

ProLife volunteers and employees should have the freedom to devote their volunteer time to any legitimate, legal, proLife cause, or any proLife group of their choosing, without retribution of any kind.

We envision some legitimate exceptions to this provision, which will be handled on an individual basis. E.g., if someone volunteers at Planned Parenthood, then they are obviously not suitable for proLife volunteer work of any kind.

### **3. MUTUAL COOPERATION WHERE EVER POSSIBLE**

With the horrible threat of FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act) pending, ProLife Unity encourages the most efficient use of every available proLife resource. We encourage all proLife groups to work together to avoid duplication of efforts, and wherever possible, to specialize in that specific proLife service which is most needed, and which that particular proLife group is best suited to provide.

### **4. ADHERENCE TO 'LIFE PRINCIPLES'**

According to Mark Gietzen, The Kansas Coalition for Life Chairman, *"This is by far the most controversial element of ProLife Unity, but also the most important one; it divides the sheep from the goats!"*

Gietzen predicts that some existing proLife groups will not join ProLife Unity because of the inclusion of the LIFE PRINCIPLES. *"Nevertheless,"* he said, *"I am pleased by, and completely comfortable with this historic decision!"*

(Attachment = LIFE PRINCIPLES)

# Life Principles

*In 1974, "MARCH FOR LIFE" developed these Life Principles to express the ideals motivating most prolife Americans. Many, but not all, proLife groups in the United States and around the world have adopted these principles as part of their own bylaws, guidelines and constitutions.*

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all human beings are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which is the right to life, and, THEREFORE;



The right to life of each human being shall be preserved and protected by every human being in the society and by the society as a whole. And,



The life of each human being shall be preserved and protected from that human being's biological beginning when the Father's sperm fertilizes the Mother's ovum. And,



The life of each human being shall be preserved and protected from the biological beginning throughout the natural continuum of that human being's life by all available ordinary means and reasonable efforts. And,



The life of each human being shall be preserved and protected at each stage of the life continuum to the same extent as at each and every other stage regardless of state of health or condition of dependency. And,



The life of each human being shall be preserved and protected to the same extent as the life of each and every other human being regardless of state of health or condition of dependency. And,



When there is any doubt that there exists a human being's life to preserve and protect, such doubt shall be resolved in favor of the existence of a human being. And,



When two or more human beings are in a situation in which their lives are mutually endangered, all available ordinary means and reasonable efforts shall be used to preserve and protect the life of each and every human being so endangered.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to these principles, we recommend and urge the adoption of a HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT to the Constitution of the United States of America.

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