

Evangelical Free Church of Canada
Statement on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)



We Believe:

- Our God is perfect and has purposed to redeem a people for Himself.
- God created male and female in His image, and this brings value and purpose to each individual.
- God gave humanity a mandate to be fruitful (tending creation) and multiply.
- God's moral laws are designed for human flourishing, particularly enabling humans to live in harmony in community.
- Humans have rejected God's ways and desire to define good and evil and make a name for themselves, and erroneously self-determine the best definition of human flourishing. Such self-determination is tainted by our broken perspectives.
- The "fall" outlined in Genesis 3 leads to evil, oppression, disease, murder, and power struggles. It is wrong for humans to pretend to be God and take life.
- God always has a people He calls to be His redemptive presence in the world. His people have a mandate to combat individual and systemic evil and injustice and to promote and defend the sanctity of all human life, regardless of race, nationality, or gender.
- When MAiD is used as a "therapy," or "solution," it undermines the sanctity of life, forces some medical personnel to violate their conscience and is open to abuse. We are concerned that those suffering from a mental illness may not be able to give informed and competent consent for MAiD. Additionally, people who may be unable to respond, interact, or process appropriately because of illness, physical limitations, or pain (as tragic as that is) are also disadvantaged in these kinds of discussions. People in such vulnerable places are also susceptible to be swayed by other's convictions.
- MAiD should not be the only option available to those individuals who cannot access affordable housing, adequate health care, pain management, or mental health resources. High-quality palliative care should be available to all who need it.

- Human suffering does not necessarily so demean “quality of life” that an individual has an inalienable right to force someone to administer MAID regardless of the impact on other people. God, through the redeeming work of Christ, is ultimately at work redeeming suffering in the lives of people, enabling them to experience his love and care, should they so choose.
- Defining quality of life, or value of life, in such ways, devalues the many who also suffer. Allowing anyone to determine what life is valuable and worthy of living does have implications on others who share such difficulties.

We in the EFCC are called to:

- be a redemptive presence that acts to ameliorate suffering and evil and leads with positive deeds of love and mercy;
- affirm the dignity and value of each human, but also affirm the social nature of humans. We do not affirm that individuals have unlimited moral freedom to make decisions that impact the community;
- recognize that human identity is complex and is not grounded in the individual alone and the community has a stake in ensuring identity is not reduced to one thing alone (race, gender, sexuality, nationality; etc.) As Christ followers, our identity is anchored in who we are in Christ;
- affirm that suffering does not invalidate human value and meaning. We are called to compassion and finding ways to ameliorate suffering in all its forms through palliative and hospice care;
- be church communities where the weak and suffering are cared for and given the hope of the good news of Jesus;
- treat all people with respect and love, ministering gently and compassionately to those struggling with a decision to access MAiD;
- respect and care for those who decide to be present with those choosing MAID and those who choose not to be present with those choosing MAiD;
- recognize that there can be a calling and opportunity to serve, and even introduce Christ, in the life of someone in their last days/hours, even if they are choosing the timing of those hours; and,
- remember that, even in the midst of darkness, there is hope. New helpful treatments and technologies are constantly being developed, God can and does heal, and there can be wonderful moments of joy and peace even in the midst of darkness.