

March 22, 1993

[REDACTED]

Dear Brother [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of February 15 regarding your concern for the abortion issue. I am enclosing a document that was voted at the 1992 Annual Council of the Church in October of this past year. While this statement is not perfect, it comes to the church after several years of very careful study by Ephesus and theologians and a wide range of people from around the world. It received almost two full days of debate, including listening to a minority report presented by several members who had served on the Commission who were opposed to the final document.

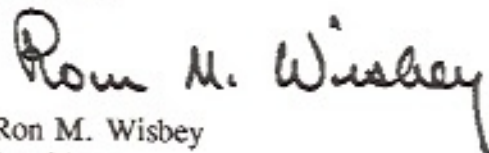
While this may not care for all of your concerns, at the present time, it is the stand of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the basis for which our hospitals will handle these matters in the future. It is not a document placed in cement. Over the coming years, I am confident it will be revisited for evaluation and for change, if necessary.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, historically, has not attempted to dictate and overcome a persons own conscience, and will not attempt to do so in this matter. The church stands strongly against abortion as an elective issue. Our hospitals stand with us in this and have voted the procedures that are outlined within the document enclosed.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not in the abortion business. While there are unfortunate rumors, and the vast majority of them cannot be authenticated.

I respect your right to your own thinking on this or any other issue. But I urge you to consider carefully the facts of the document that is enclosed, realizing that the church has come to this position over many years of very serious, careful consideration. I can also assure you that our healthcare institutions will abide by these policies as they have the previous policies that have been put in place by the church.

Sincerely,



Ron M. Wisbey  
President

Enc SDA Church Position on Abortion, Voted 10/92