Abortion and Birth Control

As with most moral issues, our denomination has an approach which could be labeled "pro-choice." This is not to say that we support abortion or even believe that it is ever the appropriate choice. Rather, we believe that individuals must come to their own moral decisions rather than have those decisions forced upon them by the government. Having an abortion is a decision that belongs to the parents, not the law. Furthermore, even though most of us believe abortion is seldom if ever the appropriate choice, we do not condemn people for the choices they have made. Because we know that God loves everyone, we also realize that He makes the sacraments of grace available to everyone. No one, therefore, would be turned away from Communion for having an abortion.

With regards to birth control, we diverge even more sharply from the Rol1lan Catholic position. Our world is seriously overpopulated and babies are dying every day for lack of food. It is socially irresponsible to preach against birth control. Furthermore, we believe that if birth control were freely available and universally taught in school, there would be great reductions in teen pregnancy and also a great reduction in the number of abortions among women of all ages and social sectors. If a church really wanted to reduce abortion, it should promote birth control.

Shirilau, Mark. History and Overview of the Ecumenical Catholic Church, 1985-1995. Página 86. 1995. Riverside, CA.

These are complicated themes and deserve much individual and collective prayer. Every Community of Faith must have moments for reflection and discernment to extensively discuss these themes, within the framework of the right to choose. The ECC does not impose a position. Rather, the ECC opens conversation in a context of inclusion and love.

There are pastoral projects which support the non-criminalization of abortion. There are pastoral projects which teach youth the importance of safe sex, to prevent non-planned pregnancies and for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. There are pastoral projects which promote the use of condomns to prevent transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. The decision to have an abortion is the decision of each woman and/or couple to make, in consultation with their doctor and spiritual advisor. If the decision to have an abortion is made, a safe abortion needs to be found, without judgement minimizing any sense of guilt.

Kalke, David John. Reflexión, Mayo, 2019, Guadalajara, Jal, Mexico.