

## SAMPLE LETTER SUPPORTING CONGREGANT'S RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Dear [Employer]:

[Name] is a [member/congregant] of [Church], a Bible-believing church in [City, State]. Though [Church] doctrine does not impact the personal decision of whether an individual receives most vaccines, the following teaching of [Church] demonstrates a principled religious basis on which [name of member/congregant] asserts a conscientious religious objection to the current COVID-19 vaccines.

[[Church's] Statement of Faith includes a summary of its most sincerely held religious beliefs, which includes beliefs regarding the sanctity of human life:

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. Ps. 139.

[Or insert church's sanctity of human life statement here, if different from the above.]]

[*If no statement, use:* The Scriptures reveal that God knows us even before we are conceived. *See* Jeremiah 1:4 – 5 (“The word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.’”). And God’s creative powers are effectively at work while we are yet in the womb. *See* Psalm 139:13 – 16 (“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”).]

The Christian Church has condemned abortion – the killing of human infants while in the womb – from earliest times. The *Didache*, a conduct code of the early Christian community, dated by some as being as early as 70 AD, is in accord with Scripture, stating: “[D]o not abort a foetus or kill a child that is born.” Loeb Edition of the *Apostolic Fathers* (also translated as “Thou shalt not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is begotten.”). *A Plea for Christians*, written around AD 177 by Athenagoras, stated, “[W]e say that those women who use drugs to bring on abortion commit murder, and will have to give an account to God for the abortion.” Tertullian, in his *Apologeticum*, written in 197 AD, wrote: “Murder being once for all forbidden, we [Christians] may not destroy even the fetus in the womb, . . .”

Fetal stem cell lines have been used in the development of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, and fetal stem cell lines have been used in the testing of the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. *See* James Lawler, MD, You asked, we answered: Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain aborted fetal cells?, Nebraska Medicine, August 4, 2021, <https://www.nebraskamed.com/COVID/you-asked-we-answered-do-the-covid-19-vaccines-contain-aborted-fetal-cells>. Thus, [Church] supports its [member's/congregant's] religious belief that receiving a vaccine that uses aborted fetal cell lines in the development or testing of the vaccine violates their sincerely held religious beliefs regarding the sanctity and protection of pre-born children.

[Insert additional bases for religious objections if applicable, being careful to include bona fide religious objections only, not non-religious objections.]

Sincerely,

[Signature of Pastor/Elder/Deacon]

[Name of Pastor/Elder/Deacon]

[Date]