

Dear Heart of Illinois United Way:

We, the undersigned church ministers and ministry leaders wish to join our voices with many others in our community in applauding so much of the work you do. There are worthy agencies and services that rely on your wise and judicious distributions. Many families are blessed through the outreach of these agencies and services; and numerous individuals trust that their contributions are directed to these real needs. For your faithful service in this area, we thank you very much!

We have one serious concern, however, that we must bring to your attention. We have been troubled that, in the past, you have chosen to fund the local Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood is not an agency that advocates strong families or communities. Its open support of the abhorrent practice of abortion on demand is destroying life and harming women. Its educational approach, which encourages sexual activity outside of marriage (even for children), damages the central fabric of our society – strong families.

As you are aware, the local Peoria-based Planned Parenthood has merged with other regional Planned Parenthood organizations into a single state agency. There will no longer be an independent local organization in our area. Sadly, the new statewide Planned Parenthood not only supports abortion, they are actively involved in the destruction of life. Planned Parenthood actually performs abortions in Champaign and Chicago, and has recently constructed a mega-clinic in Aurora, built for the primary purpose of taking life. For this reason, we urge you to consider your moral obligation to society and cease your support of this destructive agency.

We have been pleased to see that many United Way agencies have chosen to give to local pregnancy resource centers rather than Planned Parenthood. It is our prayer that you would likewise follow this model. The pregnancy resource centers in our communities provide wholesome sexual education and outreach; they also provide information and support to those interested in adoption.

We, the undersigned, urge you to do the right thing and take this opportunity to completely break off ALL of your associations with Planned Parenthood.

Your servants in the furtherance of the Gospel in our community,

Msgr. Charles Beebe  
St. Philomena's  
Peoria

Father Jason Gray  
St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
Peoria

Fr. Patrick Riordan  
St. Mary's Church  
Kickapoo

Pastor Donald Blasing  
Brimfield Evangelical Free  
Brimfield

Rev. Mark Henninger  
Redeemer Presbyterian  
Peoria

Pastor Gabe Salazar  
Peoria Christian Fellowship  
Peoria

Dr. Ritch Boerckel  
Bethany Baptist Church  
Peoria

Pastor Tony Johnson  
Peoria Christian Fellowship  
Peoria

Pastor Gary Schultz  
Grace Bible Church of Astoria  
Astoria

Dr. Ron Brady  
Hanna City Presbyterian  
Hanna City

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky  
Diocese of Peoria  
Peoria

Pastor Philip Somers  
New Castle Bible Church  
Mackinaw

Rev. Gary Davey  
First Church of the Nazarene  
Peoria

Dr. Ben Johnston  
Grace Presbyterian  
Peoria

Fr. Paul Stiene  
St. Patrick's Church  
Elmwood

Rev. Kenneth Durst  
PrayerView Community  
Peoria

Pastor Mike Kirby  
Peoria Outreach Center  
Peoria

Pastor Tom Swanson  
Eureka Bible Church  
Eureka

Rev. Greg Dykstra  
Glen Hill Evangelical Free  
East Peoria

Dr. Ron Klassen  
Rural Home Missionary Assn  
Morton

Pastor Eugene Virgil  
House of Prayer Ministries  
Morton

Rev. Tomas A Eckhardt  
Bradley Epworth UMC  
Peoria

Rev. James McDonald  
Providence Church  
Peoria

Pastor Joseph Weyer  
Bethany Missionary Church  
East Peoria

Pastor Dean Grabill  
First Assembly of God  
Peoria

Pastor Tom Nofsinger  
Calvary Bible Church  
Lacon

Msgr. William Watson  
St. Thomas Church  
Peoria Heights