

# Christian Action Ministry

## Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

Nov.—Dec. 2022★ Vol. 32, Number 06

## Calendar

Election Day  
November 8th

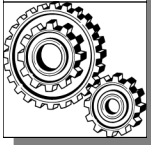
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“Search the history of any state or national government. Has anyone ever proposed an amendment and anticipated years of litigation as a good thing?”

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In the  
Works

### Election and Article 22 Results

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact us at [camnetVT@gmail.com](mailto:camnetVT@gmail.com).

## Updates on Article 22

Lauston Stephens, Editor

**W**e have addressed the issue of Proposal 5/ Article 22 for over a year. Some of the points may have been forgotten or could benefit from an updated or deeper look.

In the May/June issue of last year, we began with guest writer Mary Hahn Beerworth, Director of Vermont Right to Life, addressing the question, “Does Abortion Belong in the Vermont Constitution?”

The first objection that is raised is taxpayer funding. This may seem to be a poor argument, appealing to selfishness. Would we begrudge mere money for “an individual’s right to reproductive autonomy?” Vermonters value rights over our own comfort, don’t we?

Actually, this is a quick, easy test. If government mechanisms to tax and spend are required, there is no “right.” People are “endowed by their Creator with ... unalienable rights.” We have those rights whether or not there even is a functioning government.

Governments bestow *privileges*, not rights; and what governments give, governments can take away. The Supreme Court *Dobbs* ruling is the case at issue, but the situation isn’t as extreme as some would have us believe.

Some try to leave God out of things and speak of “constitutional rights.” This can be misleading and the effect is that people feel betrayed. They are no longer afforded privileges that they had come to think of as (presumably unalienable) rights. We can understand their confusion and anger, but it doesn’t call for the extreme position of Article 22.

In his concurring opinion on *Dobbs*, Justice Kavanaugh writes, “In sum, the Constitution is neutral on the issue of abortion and allows the people and their elected representatives to address the issue through the democratic process. In my respectful view, the Court in *Roe* therefore erred by taking sides on the issue of abortion.”

Essentially, the 2022 Court said that the 1973 Court was “legislating from the bench.” Others have said that for half a century, but it matters when the Court says it. In response, Congress has begun to draft legislation. Whatever they come up with will not be as extreme as Article 22.

Before the *Dobbs* ruling was released, in our March/April issue, guest writer and attorney John Klar pointed out, “The Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* sought to balance not just competing moral and political views, but the two lives at issue.” Article 22 seeks no such balance. John’s article concludes, “Extremism such as Vermont’s demands federal rescue.”

He wrote in terms of a federal *judicial* response, but a federal *legislative* response would also preempt Article 22. “This Constitution and the Laws of the United States... shall be the Supreme law of the land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing

in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.” - Article VI, clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

A federal abortion law would preempt Vermont’s no-limits abortion law, H. 57 as well as Article 22 unless the federal law is worded to allow these extreme state laws. Advocates of Article 22 may hope the entire nation follows them. This extremism should be stopped here.

Mary Beerworth’s article also pointed out the intentional open end of Article 22: “According to Planned Parenthood of Vermont’s spokesperson Paige Feeser, Proposal 5 quite deliberately ‘... will open up a range of different questions for future lawmakers ... for years to come.’ (Paige Feeser, Public Affairs Organizer for Planned Parenthood, 7/30/2020)”

Search the history of any state or national government. Has anyone ever proposed an amendment and anticipated years of litigation as a good thing? Is this an arrogant assumption that courts will rule as intended? Is it a reckless folly, playing Russian roulette with law? Our own writers raised some of the questions yet to be answered.

For example, in our May/June issue of this year, Craig Lyman asked, “As a male, when it comes to abortion I’m told to sit down and shut up, I have no say. What are my reproductive rights? Apparent-

ly, I have none. My child’s life can be legally ended regardless of my desires. What about the baby’s rights?”



We received the largest amount of positive feedback for Kay Trudell’s article in our July/August issue. She raised several unanswered questions.

“How many people and combinations of sexes (some will say genders) will be allowed to consummate a single marriage and have multiple sex partners within it to reproduce? All legal. Where are the boundaries? How many legal parents will those children have? Who will be financially responsible for them? How will divorces work? Child support? How will adultery or fornication be legally defined? What biological gender combinations will there now be demanding reproductive rights?

How will this reproduction be achieved? Must the state and taxpayers pay for everything a person demands so they can reproduce? Who decides the extent of such obligation? Will “abortion tourism” increase as people travel here from out-of-state to take advantage of this broad “right”? Why not? Where is the language limited to Vermont residents? Does this also include minors? Who pays?...

“Where are the protections for religious freedom? There are none. Churches could be sued for preaching Biblical morality. Are there protections for medical personnel whose religious beliefs or consciences make them unable to participate in some of these procedures? No. What will objecting teachers be forced to teach to children? Medical personnel and teachers will not be able to legally refuse.”

In the September/October issue of last year, Kay also responded to support of Article 22 offered in a joint statement by various Vermont religious leaders.

“The Jews have the precious promises of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) concerning the sanctity of human life that God created. For example, ‘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.’ (Jeremiah 1:5)

**“Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers.” — Mother Teresa**

“These religious leaders have taken an unbiblical position. No woman (or man) has total autonomy over their own body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says ‘You are not your own. For you have been bought with a price: Therefore glorify God in your body.’ How does killing an unborn baby glorify God?”

Note, the religious leaders do not make a religious case. They say we are *born* equal, skirting the issues of creation and personhood before birth, and they cite statistics of religious people supporting *some* abortion rights. They definitely

don’t cite statistics of support for late-term abortion.

In our last issue, we also looked at the “compelling State interest” clause. As a legal principle, “compelling State interest” raises the bar of scrutiny for legislation. As a phrase in a constitution, it opens unexplored legal territory.

Over 270,000 Vermonters voted in the last mid-term election. Turnout may be higher this year. Only a simple majority is needed. The most recent UNH poll of 737 likely voters reported that 75% expect to

vote “Yes” on this issue, but less than half of them believe they understand it very well.

59% of those that will vote “No” believe they understand it very well. We have worked toward that end. Even if the amendment is overwhelmingly approved, it will still be extreme.

*Craig Lyman and Kay Trudell are Directors of the Christian Action Ministry and attend Ignite Church in Williston.*

*Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Chapel in Rutland.*

## I’m a Human Being

I’m not a “positive pregnancy test”; I’m a human being.

I’m not an “unplanned pregnancy”; I’m a human being.

I’m not an “accident”; I’m a human being.

I’m not “pregnancy tissue”; I’m a human being.

I’m not “uterine contents”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “blob”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “conceptus”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “clump of cells”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “non-human life form”; I’m a human being.

I’m not “fetal tissue”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “fetal-placental unit”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “parasite”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “non-person”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “political issue”; I’m a human being.

I’m not a “choice”; I’m a human being.

I’m not “unwanted”; God loves me.



There will be two ballot questions on November 8th addressing possible amendments to the Vermont Constitution.

The first more completely outlaws slavery than the current text. What legal effect can this have since the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude over 150 years ago? Most people will vote “Yes” very quickly.

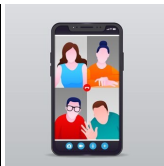
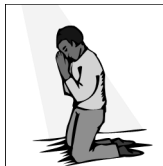
They may then be inclined to quickly vote “Yes” on the second question. Let’s not rush to such judgment. There are many things to consider. We review them here and touch on some not previously considered.

“Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness.”

—Alveda King, activist, author, and former Georgia state legislator

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### What Can I Do?



*Faith without works is dead*  
*James 2:17*

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### Next Meeting

Nov. 14., 7:00 pm  
Parkinson home  
Hinesburg, Vt.

☎ (802) 773-2602  
Call or text to confirm date  
and location

**Make A Difference  
In Vermont!**