

Starter Questions on Bioethical Issues for our Churches during Election Year

to ask political candidates, to discuss in small groups, to initiate sermons and to help individuals considering their vote in the 2023 government elections.

- Which issues can you identify that are so impactful that policies for these issues need to be **non-partisan** (ie where the major political parties agree) so that our country is sustained and effective in its thinking and actions on this issue for the next few years?
- What are your **climate change/crisis goals and actions** for the first year of term if you are part of the Government? What are your goals and actions for the next 3 years? Is there any current measure you would undo or change, and for what reason? In what ways do you see a link between climate change and the cost-of-living crisis? What is your main emphasis in responding to climate change – reactionary (cleaning up after disasters), adaptive (pre-empting where the next disasters may occur and making changes to be protected from them), or mitigation (long term actions to reduce the causes of climate change in order to slow/stop/reverse climate change)?
- **Genetic Modification (GM)/engineering/editing** – what do you think the main benefits and the main risks are in GM? Who do you think in Aotearoa New Zealand should be deciding what is acceptable to be allowed in GM – the government, the public, farmers/companies/doctors? How can we best protect human genes, and in culturally appropriate ways? How can we protect the integrity of species (so that species aren't changed irreparably by GM) and protect species biodiversity (where endangered species are helped to survive using GM)?
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** includes algorithms and algorithmic use of Big Data, computer generated intelligence and human brain activity stored outside a human. What regulation do we need for the development and use of AI to protect society without impeding AI's benefits and opportunities? How would you ensure that demand for new technology does not race ahead of ethical consideration and regulation of the technology? What does it mean to you to be human with human intelligence? Are the boundaries of humanness crossed in AI, gene editing, genetic enhancement, transgenics etc, and who should discern what and where are these boundaries?

- What are your policies regarding **misinformation (unintended wrong information) and disinformation (intentionally wrong information)** – in social media, in mainstream media, other information vectors? What measures would be considered to limit disinformation, and what would be considered going ‘too far’? What values would you use to determine limits? How would those values be identified and measured? And how could/does Artificial Intelligence play into this spreading of disinformation?
- There has been significant concern about **the lack of equity for access to health and education**, especially for people with disabilities, Māori, Pasifika, and those in some geographical areas. How would you ensure this equity of access to services with dignity, effectiveness and fairness in Aotearoa NZ? Where do you see policies needed at the top of the cliff rather than just at the bottom of the cliff? What opportunities for those missing out are you most interested in improving, and how? What efforts would you make to unite the public attitude to these measures?
- What are your policies with respect to providing equity in funding/provision/support for **Palliative Care, and for Assisted Dying**, as at present only assisted dying is fully funded? What would you put into place to enable accessible, realistic options for terminally ill people in Aotearoa New Zealand to be able to choose from both types of end-of-life care?