



**The United Church
of Canada
General Council**

Caring for the Dying

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The task group was asked to prepare a position statement¹ for the United Church on current issues that surround life-threatening illness, disability, and death, with a view to assisting church members and congregations faced with making difficult choices.

The need for such a statement was demonstrated by:

- Petition 62 from Muskoka Presbytery to the 34th General Council (see appendix A);
- requests from United Church members asking for materials containing such guidance;
- a report from the former Moderator, Walter Farquharson: in his travels across the country, he found that church members are dissatisfied with the church's apparent failure to address concerns such as the use of life support systems, living wills, and euthanasia;
- the urgency of avoiding futile prolongation of life for chronically or terminally ill patients, and avoiding painful decisions for their families during such prolongation.

The full report can be found attached to this page.

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