

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

- 1) Clarify the facts of the case.
 - a) Is the given information reliable?
 - b) What else do we need to know before making a decision?
- 2) What personal history/experiences do you bring to this case?
- 3) Specify the ethical issue(s) the case presents. What is the decision that needs to be made? (Be succinct!)
- 4) Lay out the options available to the decision makers/stakeholders.
- 5) Who are the stakeholders and/or decision makers in this case?
 - a) How is power distributed among them?
 - b) Whose voices are being heard? Are being ignored?
- 6) Identify key norms, principles, themes, and values from the Christian tradition and other sources relevant to this case.
- 7) Examine the motives of the stakeholders and decision makers.
- 8) Envision probable outcomes of the various options.
 - a) To what extent does an outcome depend on the cooperation of others?
 - b) Will the most pressing needs of the stakeholders be met?
 - c) Are any of the means to achieve an outcome questionable?
- 9) Consider how each option fits with various roles and responsibilities in life.
 - a) What role conflicts will likely emerge?
 - b) Will the ability to fulfill each responsibility be hindered or enhanced?
- 10) Decide which option seems more compelling. [No easy shortcuts]
- 11) Do an ethical reality check.
 - a) Can the decision made actually be implemented?
 - b) Does the decision encourage individual and corporate responsibility in relation to God, other human beings, and creation?
 - c) Has any norm been given too much sway in this decision?
 - d) Have the needs/concerns of all stakeholders been taken into account?
 - e) Are you too sure of the decision?
 - f) Does the decision cohere with our vision of the individual and corporate form of Jesus Christ in the world?
- 12) Recommendations for implementation.

[The catalyst for this handout was "Ethics Assessment Process," a handout provided by Courtney Campbell of Oregon State University.]