

**Medicine
Mission
Moral Agency**

Adventist Bioethics 2018

The Phone Call



General Conference of SDA Information



- Statements (64)
- Guidelines (12)
- Documents (19)

Conscience vs. Moral Guidance

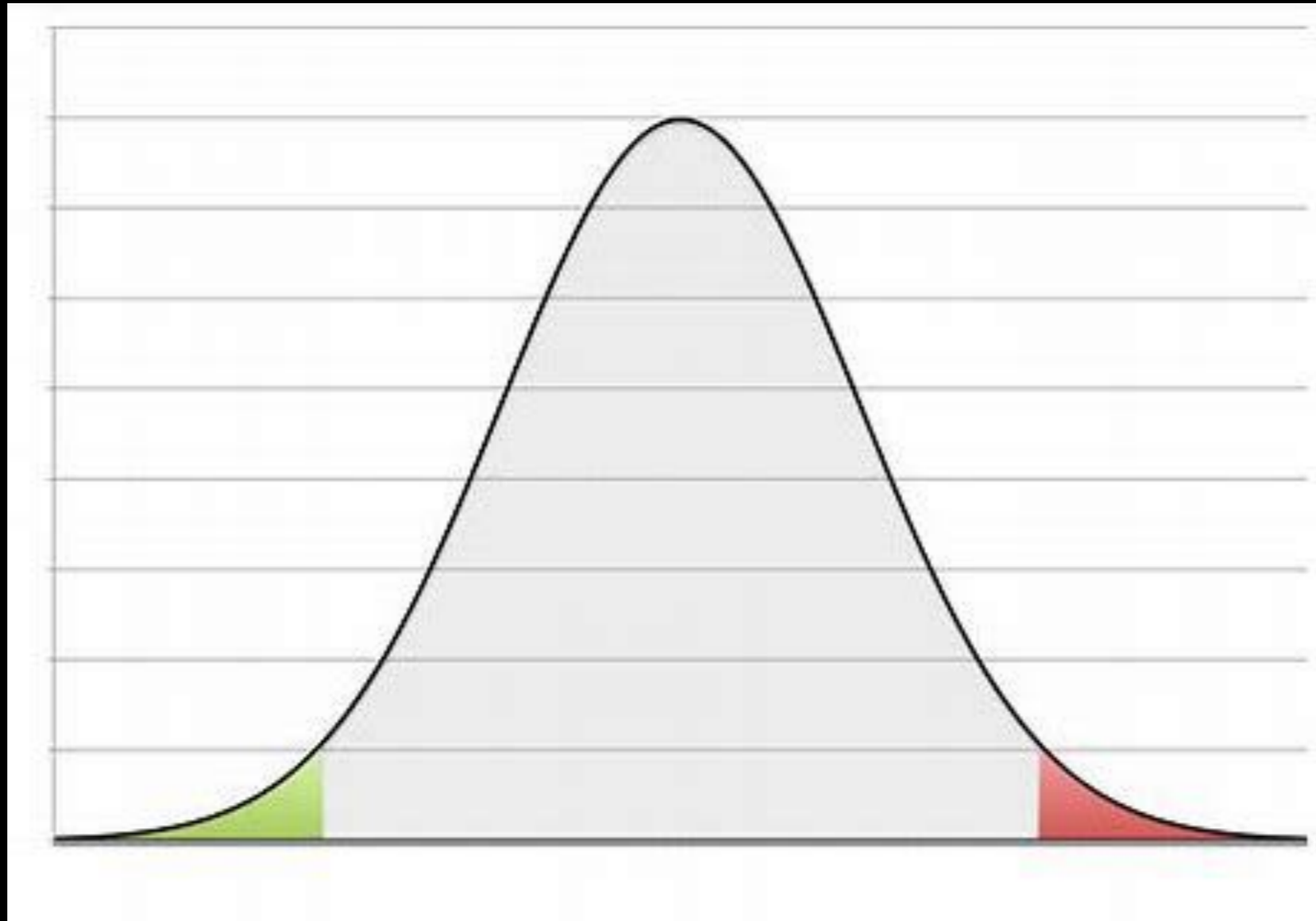
- “..serious threats to the pregnant woman’s life, serious jeopardy to her health”
- “...severe congenital defects carefully diagnosed in the fetus”
- “...pregnancy resulting from rape or incest”





“A mother is not God, only a fragile human being living in a tragic world.”

Miroslav Volf



**“It is easier to go to one consistent extreme or another,
than to remain in the center of Biblical tension.”**

Robertson McQuilken

Layered Complexity

- Societal
- Organizational
- Professional
- Personal



**“...ethical issues
such as
informed consent,
truth telling,
confidentiality,
end of life care,
pain relief,
and patient rights”**



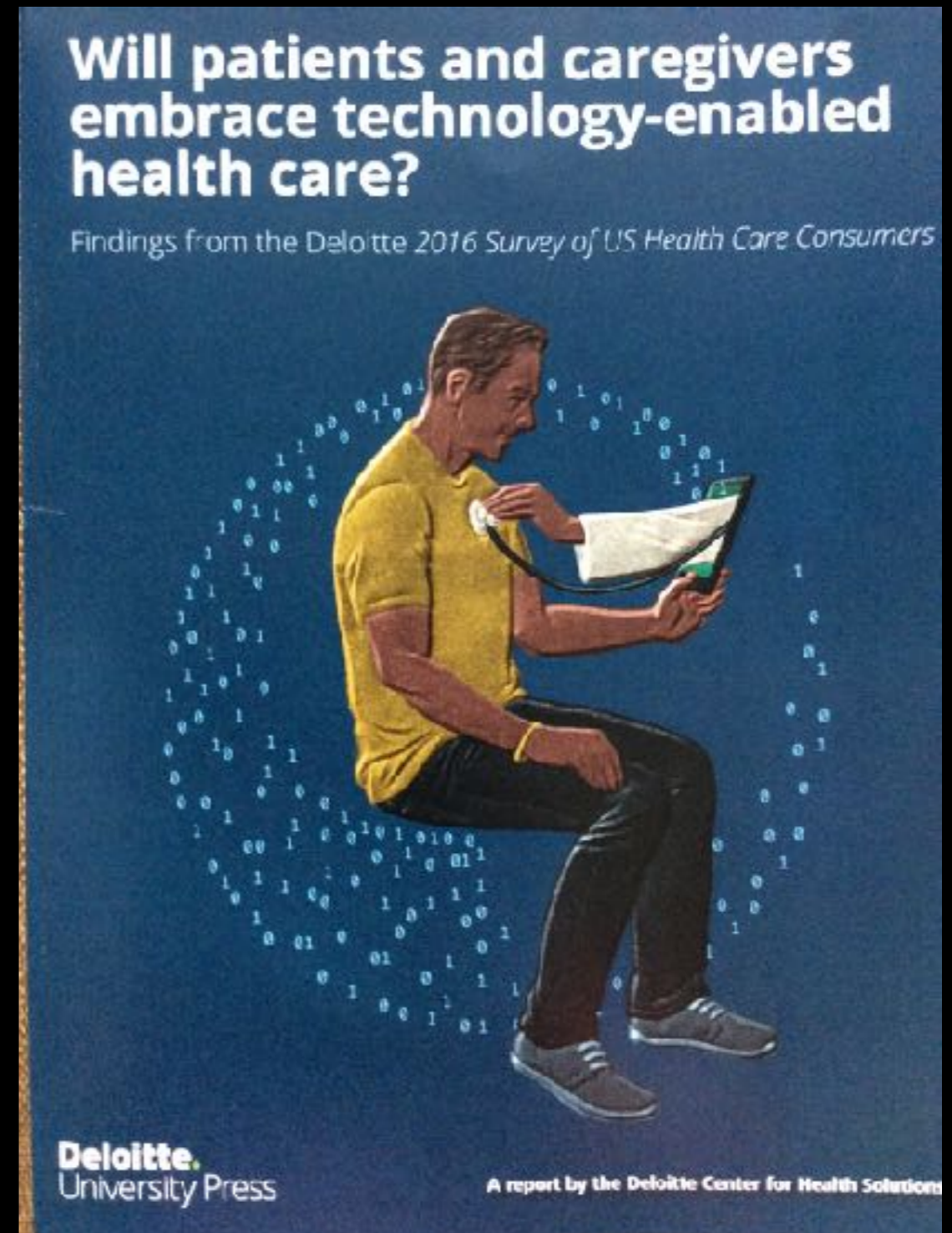
Clinical Ethics
Jensen, Seigler, Winslade,
1998

Who is responsible for health status of central Florida?



Definition of human?

- Artificial Intelligence: Who writes the values into the system?
- Human enhancement: Better, stronger, smarter through genetic manipulation?
- Synthetic biology: Is the creation of artificial life morally relevant?



**“...the practice of medicine
is a moral minefield”
Weinstock**

- Moral agency
- Conscience creep
- Moral distress
- Moral injury



“...absent access to God...there exists no moral standpoint outside of particular socially, culturally, and historically conditioned points of view. As a result, **secular bioethics always confronts an irreducible plurality of competing moralities, cultural perspectives, and personal narratives.**”

Mark J. Cherry. “Medicine, Morality, and Mortality: The Challenges of Moral Diversity, Oxford University Press, 2015

- Social responsibility
- Pastoral & spiritual
- Professional-patient
- Beginning of life
- Seriously ill & dying
- New partnerships

Ethical and
Religious
Directives for
Catholic Health
Care Services

Fifth Edition

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS



“Dear Ted...”

- “Questionable ethics”
- “Weakening of altruistic vision”
- “Perceived departure from the vision of our founders”
- “Some ‘sickness’ in the system”



How will health systems associated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church mature our bioethics programs in ways that represent

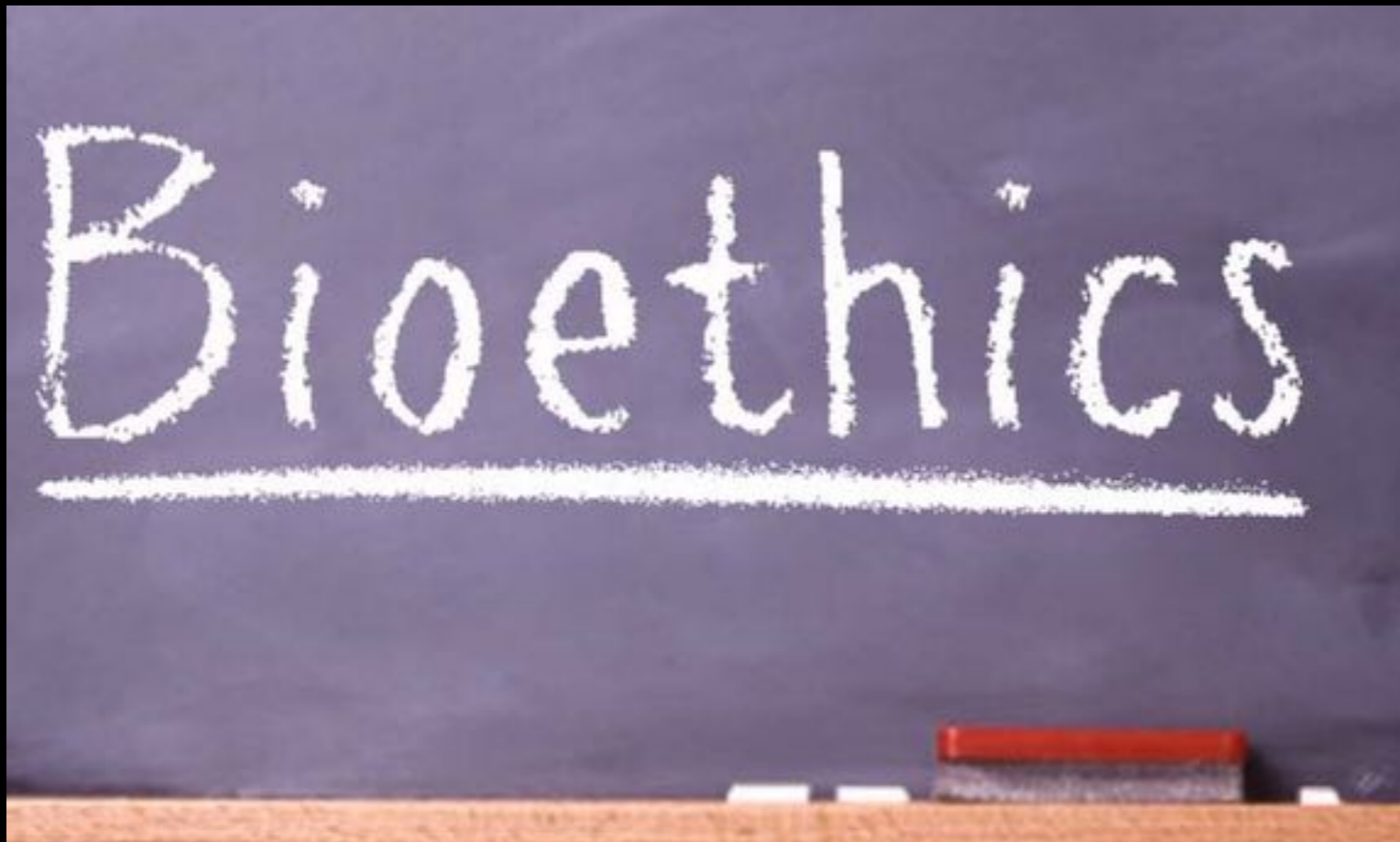
- institutional integrity,**
- faithfulness to mission,**
- social responsibility,**
- and a healthy relationship to our Church?**



**“What does the Lord require of you but to do justly,
and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”**

Micah 6:8

Classic Principles



- Autonomy
- Justice
- Beneficence
- Non-maleficence

**Imago Dei
Imitatio Christi
Emfyto Dei**

A Missional Model for Adventist Bioethics



**Sister Carol Keehan,
President,
Catholic Health Association**

“The application of religious principles to clinical ethics must come from people of faith who are experienced in clinical ethics.”

**Robert Orr
Medical Ethics and the
Faith Factor**





Will we be a prophetic voice to healthcare?
If not us, then who?
If not now, then when?