

<https://brill.com/view/journals/wo/aop/article-10.1163-15685357-bja005/article-10.1163-15685357-bja005.xml>

The Challenge of Christian Deliberation in a Libertarian Context: The Case of the ELCA's Social Statement on Genetics

In: [Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology](#)

Authors: [Leland L. Glenna¹](#) and [Curtis W. Stofferahn²](#)

[View More](#)

Online Publication Date:

21 Mar 2022

Abstract

In 2005, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly authorized the formation of a task force to prepare a social statement on genetics and faith. Although the Churchwide Assembly voted to adopt the social statement in August of 2011 by a wide margin, there had been an earlier controversy. In June 2010, an article in the *Dakota Farmer* questioned whether the ELCA was accusing farmers of "sin" for planting genetically engineered crop seeds. At least two churches in rural North Dakota cited this factor as a reason for leaving the ELCA. Seven synods with strong farmer constituencies proposed resolutions challenging the social statement. This paper explores how the opposition used agrarianism and libertarianism to attack the ELCA's use of the Christian concept of the common good in the social statement. This case reveals the challenges that the Church faces when contributing to ethical deliberations on controversial issues.

Access options

Get access to the full article by using one of the access options below.

Purchase

Buy instant access (PDF download and unlimited online access):

€29.95\$34.95

[Add to Cart](#)

Other access options

[Redeem Access Token](#)

Institutional Login

Log in with Open Athens, Shibboleth, or your institutional credentials

[Login via Institution](#)

Personal login

Log in with your brill.com account

[Login with brill.com account](#)