



# How Can Your Faith Community Help Save & Restore Lives Through Donation?

Each November, **National Donor Sabbath** brings faith communities together to honor donors, support recipients, and raise awareness about the impact of organ, eye and tissue donation. This initiative partners with faith leaders, houses of worship, and faith-based organizations to educate congregations about the critical need for donors and to dispel myths and discuss religious beliefs about the donation process.

For many, their faith guides decisions about helping others. Many religious traditions view donation as an act of compassion, generosity, and hope. Through cornea donation, one person can help restore sight and leave a lasting legacy.

## WHY NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH?

As people often turn to their faith leaders for help when dealing with life and death issues, National Donor Sabbath provides an opportunity for faith communities to share their views and join in the conversation.

**MYTH:** Organ, Eye and Tissue donation is against my religion.

**FACT:** Many religions in the United States support organ donation and consider donation a final act of love and generosity. If you have questions, speak with your faith leader.

**MYTH:** My family won't be able to have an open casket funeral if I'm a donor.

**FACT:** Most organ, eye, and tissue donors can have open casket funerals. The body is always treated with utmost care and respect.

**MYTH:** If I agree to donate, doctors won't work as hard to save my life.

**FACT:** Organ donor status does not influence medical personnel's lifesaving efforts.



Faith Perspectives that support organ, eye and tissue donation:

- Disciples of Christ • Episcopalian
- Evangelical Covenant Church • Islam
- Judaism • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Unitarian Universalists
- Mormon Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints • Presbyterian
- Southern Baptist Convention
- United Methodist

Multiple perspectives on organ donation may exist within any one religion. If you have questions, speak with your faith leader.

## 3 Simple Steps For How Your Faith Community Can Help Save Lives Through Donation?



1 Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor at **www.RegisterMe.org** – or scan the QR code to the left.

2 Include this insert in your Church's weekly bulletin.

3 Partner with your local Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) and invite a representative to host a table display and/or speak following service.