

Some Working Definitions

Note: in an arena characterized by relentless innovation, definitions **are provisional**.

Nevertheless, these are useful and map onto the slide used today.

(adapted from the unpublished manuscript of Presbyterian Church, USA's Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy)

"artificial intelligence": a computational system that function in ways that we traditionally associate with human intelligence.

"generative AI": The most common contemporary AI systems use large language models that employ probabilistic algorithms to generate text, audio, and visual content in forms that are coherent, contextually responsive, and strikingly human-like. These systems are trained through statistical analysis of extremely large sets of human-written text and produce generative results based on those statistics. (These are often called "agents.") Recently, these systems have gone beyond human-like interaction with the capacity to perform other traditionally human tasks such as summarizing meetings, editing documents, writing software, and more.

"hallucinations": Since the algorithms are probabilistic, they sometimes make mistakes—providing information that may look realistic but actually are distorted or completely false.

Three categories of AI (these terms are common, though boundaries are vague and fluid):

- **ANI** (Artificial Narrow Intelligence) human-level performance on specific tasks; (ex. A search engine)
- **AGI** (Artificial General Intelligence) human-level performance across a broad range of concepts and tasks;
 - New levels in last 4 months- write own code, own browser, video, sandbox (ex. The application GPT 5.3)
- ***ASI** (Artificial Super Intelligence) envisioned performance that *vastly and generally* exceeds human-level performance. (Coming?...)

***Note:** Most observers would say that current AI is somewhere between ANI and AGI. It is very difficult to predict if or when ASI will be reached.

Selected Resources

Some trustworthy religious resources dedicated to AI

- The AI and Faith network. <https://aiandfaith.org/>
- Rome Call for AI Ethics <https://www.romecall.org/>
 - (signed by major tech companies & inter-religious participants, since 2023)
- Roman Catholic Church Papal Website -- several documents
 - <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>
- Presbyterian Church, USA <https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001499>
 - Recommendation and rationale provided by Advisory Comm. on Social Witness Policy

ELCA Resources

- <https://resources.elca.org/corporate-social-responsibility/artificial-intelligence-issue-paper/>
- Churchwide Office policy & guidelines (due out in July)
- Some relevant values from ELCA social teaching www.elca.org
 - *Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility*
 - Imperative: respect & promote community of life before God with justice and wisdom (p.15)
 - Meaning of Justice (is 1st detailed in *Caring for Creation*)
 - Sufficiency (p. 21)
 - Sustainability (p.22)
 - Solidarity (p.23)
 - Participation (p. 25)
 - Meaning of Wisdom
 - Knowledge of experts
 - Humility
 - Precautionary principle: “When human activities may lead to morally unacceptable harm that is scientifically plausible but uncertain, action shall be taken to avoid or diminish that harm.” (p. 27)
 - *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*
 - For all, especially those living in poverty (p.4)
 - *Faith & Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*
 - God’s vision for the well-being of all (p.
 - The role of citizenship to orient civic life and government to the well-being of all
 - The appropriate role of government to regulate
 - *Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*
 - The role of church in society

Some other resources you might find useful

- The Everyday AI Start Here Series
 - https://www.youeverydayai.com/?s=Start+Here+Series&tcb_sf_post_type%5B%5D=post
 - 8 introductory free episodes from The Everyday AI series, delivered in user-friendly language. The information is eye-opening and useful for anyone, even while series is geared for business people

Other examples of how AI being used religiously – questionable!

- www.textwith.me , especially <https://textwith.me/en/jesus/>
- <https://www.chatwithgod.ai/?clientIP=73.73.201.15>