**8th General Synod (1971)**
Standing in the Hebrew-Christian tradition, we affirm God as the Source of life – our life, all life, life to the full. [God] has called us to share the work of creation with [God], giving us the privileges and responsibilities of fellowship in the family and in the wider units of society. Thus we affirm the freedom with which God endowed men and women, but we affirm and receive this as freedom bound to responsibility. At its best, our Western legal tradition, too, has served the dual purpose of protecting human freedom and helping human beings to discharge their responsibilities to one another.

**13th General Synod (1981)**
The question of when life (Personhood) begins is basic to the abortion debate. It is primarily a theological question, on which denominations or religious groups must be permitted to establish and follow their own teachings.

**16th General Synod (1987)**
Therefore, the Sixteenth General Synod:
1. Affirms the sacredness of all life, and the need to protect and defend human life in particular;
2. Encourages persons facing unplanned pregnancies to consider giving birth and parenting the child or releasing the child for adoption before considering abortion;
3. Upholds the right of men and women to have access to adequately funded family planning service, and to safe, legal abortions as one option among others.

**17th General Synod (1989)**
The 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its historic and courageous leadership in support of freedom of choice as legally supported by Roe v. Wade, and urges all parts of the church to work toward a society where a full range of reproductive options are available to all women regardless of economic circumstances and to address the root cause that lead to unplanned pregnancies, ignorance, and lack of life options.

**PRO-CHOICE: WHY?**

[PRO-CHOICE: WHY?]
What is REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE?

Reproductive Justice represents a broader analysis of racial, economic, cultural, and structural constraints on women’s power. The right to have children, to not have children, and to parent children in safe and healthy environments is a human right. (UUA)

The grassroots organization Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice defines reproductive justice as follows:

We believe reproductive justice is the complete physical, mental, spiritual, political, economic, and social well-being of women and girls, and will be achieved when women and girls have the economic, social and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about our bodies, sexuality and reproduction for ourselves, our families, and our communities in all areas of our lives.

Reproductive justice will be achieved when Indigenous women and women of color have the power to:
1. protect and advance our human rights;
2. determine the number and spacing of our children;
3. protect our bodily integrity;
4. protect our right to parent our children;
5. improve the quality of the environment in which we live;
6. obtain the necessary social supports to live healthy lives in healthy families, and in safe and sustainable communities.


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