

RESOLUTION ON HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE NEEDS OF GAY AND BISEXUAL PERSONS

[Adopted by the Tenth General Synod, United Church of Christ, Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 27-July 2, 1975]

The General Synod adopts the statement on a Response to the Overture of the California, Northern Conference Concerning the Special Needs of Gay and Bisexual Persons in the Professional Leadership of the Church:

- A. The United Church of Christ has a priority commitment to strengthen the local church. Wherever personal suffering must be silently endured without benefit of pastoral care or empathetic support, especially when the suffering occurs in the lives of the professional leadership of the church, the local church, and the church at every level, is weakened.

Insofar as social, legal and religious condemnation of homosexuality has inflicted immeasurable emotional, psychological and, at times, physical suffering upon the lives of homosexual and bisexual persons and their families, the church has a responsibility to respond to the special needs of such persons. Of immediate concern are the needs of homosexual and bisexual ministers, directors of religious education, and others in the professional leadership of the United Church of Christ.

Therefore, the Tenth General Synod responds to the special needs of homosexual and bisexual ministers, directors of religious education and others in the professional leadership of the United Church of Christ by directing the Office for Church Life and Leadership to:

1. Compile and distribute a nation-wide listing of both church and non-church related counseling resources for homosexual and bisexual persons and their families.
2. Compile and distribute an annually updated listing of vocational guidance and counseling agencies with experience in counseling homosexual and bisexual professionals.

3. Distribute a comprehensive bibliography of books, articles and audio-visual aids concerning human sexuality.

B. The United Church of Christ has not faced in depth the issue of human sexuality. Changing morality and ethics within American society present both problems and challenges to the church.

Therefore, the Tenth Synod requests the Executive Council to commission a study concerning the dynamics of human sexuality and the theological basis for a Christian ethic concerning human sexuality, and to recommend postures for the church, to be presented to the Eleventh General Synod.