

No. 8774

**EMERGENCY
RESOLUTION REGARDING CURRENT CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO AIDS CRISIS**

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the United States Government has recognized that there is an AIDS crisis, and

WHEREAS, President Reagan responded by appointing The Presidential Commission on the Human Immuno Deficiency Virus Epidemic in July of 1987, and

WHEREAS, the appointment of this commission came late, it was nevertheless an important first step, and

WHEREAS, this commission has fallen into complete disarray with the forced resignation of Commission Executive Director Linda D. Schaeffer (New York Times, October 14, 1987) and the subsequent resignation this month of commission members Dr. William Eugene Mayberry, CEO of the Mayo Clinic, and Woodrow Myers, Jr., Health Commissioner, State of Indiana, because of the ineffectiveness of this commission, and

WHEREAS, this commission was established to provide a full report on all aspects of The AIDS Crisis including medical, legal, ethical, social, and economic issues by June 1988, and

WHEREAS, a national response is urgently needed and the commission's disarray imperils a timely national response, and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Division of Homeland Ministries, has made a statement on AIDS and The Church's Ministry to assist our church-wide response to this crisis, and

WHEREAS, this statement reads:

"The church's ministry to persons with AIDS begins with the pastoral concerns that apply to all people with fatal illness. It needs to be aware of social stigma and injustice that may be suf-

fered by persons with AIDS in addition to the illness. The ministry will often involve other family or congregation.

Those who minister will be helped by having the most accurate information available about the disease, by being aware of their own feelings and responses, and by working closely with community agencies and support groups. Ministry with persons with AIDS is most effective as it is comprehensive, addressing spiritual wholeness, physical care, emotional strength and mental well being. Ministry is strengthened if shared by individual church members as well as the clergy and professional staff.

The church's ministry can make a powerful witness to its faith that there are no exceptions to God's love for all people. It can work against injustice and denial of public services in the communities where it lives. It can also be an advocate for research, education, increased treatment services and disease prevention."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States of America and Canada, meeting in Louisville, KY, October 16-21, 1987, call upon our General Minister and President to convey to President Reagan our urgent concern that the commission be reconstituted and empowered to address these overwhelming and unmet needs which this crisis continues to present to the United States and Canada as well as the whole world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourage the dissemination of the resources available through the Division of Homeland Ministries as a sign of the church's faithful response to minister to persons, families and congregations living with AIDS.