

Not Adopted

No. 8749

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

NOT ADOPTED by the General Assembly

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WHEREAS, the Bible speaks of the value of human life as a unique and wonderful creation of God, precious from the moment of conception (Psalms 39, Jeremiah 1:45, Luke 1:15 and Luke 1:31-33); and

WHEREAS, the scriptures issue a clear mandate against the destruction of human life (Exodus 20:13); and

WHEREAS, abortion is the termination of human life and is in direct conflict with the Biblical mandate to preserve life and to regard life as something precious and divinely ordained; and

WHEREAS, abortion fails to recognize the rights of or justice for the unborn human life; and

WHEREAS, abortion has become a very common practice both nationally and worldwide:

1) Over 1,500,000 abortions performed annually in United States alone; more than live births.

2) Statistics show that many women have had several abortions.

3) 5% to 10% of the abortions in the United States are performed in the third trimester (6th to 9th month). In third trimester abortions, saline injection is administered which poisons and scalds the baby. Two to four hours after the injection the unborn baby dies, and labor is induced:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in General Assembly at Louisville, Kentucky express its affirmation of the sanctity of life; conveying its grief over the widespread practice of abortion both nationally and world wide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that every congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be encouraged to utilize educational materials at every possible occasion to facilitate thoughtful and prayerful discussion regarding the practice of abortion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through both the national and regional offices provide local congregations with information regarding counseling and alternatives to abortion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President shall communicate the provisions of this resolution to the President, Members of Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

Official Board
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Nevada, MO

#8749

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The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT Resolution No. 8749 for the following reasons:

1. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has traditionally affirmed freedom of individual choice in all moral issues.
 2. On the issue of abortion the General Assembly has consistently affirmed freedom of individual choice (see Resolution No. 7524)
 3. The sanctity of life involves more than abortion.
 4. The resolution assumes the Supreme Court should be persuaded by public opinion when, in fact, the Constitution of the United States removes the court from the political arena in order to protect the civil rights of every individual.
 5. This resolution does not express pastoral concern or offer a word of grace for those who deal with unwanted or problem pregnancies as they make and live with difficult decisions.
(Debate time 24 minutes)
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In consideration of this business item during the meeting of the General Board, July 18-21, 1987, the following pro and con statements were expressed:

Pro

1. Disciples certainly can affirm the sanctity of life.
2. This resolution raises pastoral concerns that are important to Christians.
3. Resolutions of previous General Assemblies

Con

1. This resolution does not address the complexity of issues surrounding abortion.
2. Not mentioned are the church's pastoral responsibilities for such persons as women who have had abortions, those who have had