

RESOLUTION DEPLORING THE VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS OF GAY AND BISEXUAL PERSONS

[Adopted by the Eleventh General Synod, United Church of Christ, Washington, D.C., July 1-5, 1977. Vote: Greater than 90% Majority]

Whereas, the Tenth General Synod declared by an overwhelming majority its commitment to an end to discrimination relating to sexual or affectional preference; and

Whereas, in recent months we have witnessed the widespread violation of the civil rights of gay and bisexual persons in the name of Christianity; and

Whereas, gay and bisexual persons have become victims of violence, including murder, allegedly as a result of fanatical prejudice kindled recently by those who publicly espouse and exploit irrational fear; and

Whereas, the recent referendum in Dade County, Florida represents a new reactionary movement which may eventually erode the civil liberties of all; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ in its heritage and in its theology has a commitment to compassion for, and liberation of, oppressed minorities;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this Eleventh General Synod:

1. Reaffirms the action of the Tenth General Synod in its Pronouncement on Civil Liberties Without Discrimination Related to Affectional or Sexual Preference;
2. Deplores the use of scripture to generate hatred, and the violation of civil rights of gay and bisexual persons; and

3. Calls upon individual members, local churches, Associations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities to continue to work for the enactment of civil rights legislation at the federal, state and local levels of government.