

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

[Adopted by the Fourteenth General Synod, United Church of Christ, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 24-28, 1983]

As members of the Universal Body of Christ and claimed by the Gospel, claimed for mission, claimed to be stewards of God's creation, the Fourteen General Synod calls for full implementation of the following:

1. The Fourteenth General Synod receives the report of the Task Force for the Study of Human Sexuality. It directs the Executive Council to forward the report to Associations, Conferences, Instrumentalities, and other national bodies of the United Church of Christ for consideration as they develop plans and programs. The General Synod finds that the overture and resolutions referred to the Task Force have been reviewed and dealt with and therefore dismisses the Task Force with thanks and appreciation for its work.
2. The Fourteenth General Synod urges that attention and support be given to the development of proposals and programs to end sexual violence against men, women and children, regardless of their sexual orientation.
3. The Fourteenth General Synod recognizes that our present knowledge about the bases of sexual orientation and behavior is incomplete, and that psycho-social and ethical issues surrounding the rightfulness or wrongfulness of various forms of sexual expression and embodiment are still being debated within the United Church of Christ.

It is our hope that all persons will be drawn into the life and ministry of the Church. The Fourteenth General Synod recommends that:

- A. The Board for Homeland Ministries collect and continue to update information about the nature of human sexuality, including variations in sexual orientation and behavior, seeking to provide material appropriate for use with all age groups and making this information available for study by churches.
 - B. The Board for Homeland Ministries develop resources on human sexuality for use in local churches, Associations and Conferences to facilitate ministry to and with gay/lesbian people (whether they choose to affirm their sexual feelings or attempt to change them), to their families, friends and to all people struggling with issues of sexual identity.
4. The Fourteenth General Synod recognizes that a person's sexual orientation is not a moral issue, but that sexual behavior does have moral significance.
- A. The Fourteenth General Synod acknowledges that Associations have the responsibility for ordination and ministerial standing. It therefore recommends to Associations that in considering a candidate's qualifications for ministry, the candidate's sexual orientation should not be grounds for denying the request for ordination.
 - B. It also advocates that sexual orientation not be a basis for discrimination within the United Church of Christ in the employment of staff or use of volunteers.