

RESOLUTION DEPLORING VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN AND GAY PEOPLE

[Adopted by the Seventeenth General Synod, United Church of Christ, Fort Worth, Texas, June 28-July 5, 1989.]

Whereas, we are commanded to love God with hearts, minds and souls, and to love our neighbors and ourselves (Mt. 22:37-39), to love one another, even as Jesus loved the disciples, and the quality of our love for one another is the identifying mark of faithful discipleship (Jn. 14:34-35); and

Whereas, one expression of love is solidarity and support for those who are oppressed and who are the victims of violence; and

Whereas, violent incidents against lesbian and gay people are markedly increasing, including 64 murders, as well as 835 documented physical assaults during 1987; and

Whereas, the rise in the level of violence, as well as other discriminatory practices is partially attributed to increased homophobia related to the AIDS crisis; and

Whereas, all oppressed communities including women, African-Americans, Hispanics, Pacific and Asian-Americans, Native Americans, Jews, refugees, the poor, and the homeless are experiencing increased levels of both individual and systemic violence; and

Whereas, society and all people benefit from individual and collective efforts aimed at reducing violence;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Seventeenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ denounces violence against lesbian and gay people; and

Calls upon the delegates of the Seventeenth General Synod, Conferences, Associations, members of local churches and the Office for Church in Society to communicate and advocate support for the “Hate Crimes Statistics Bill (S418/USHR 1048) and support the inclusion of “sexual orientation” in the bill; and

Calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to develop and distribute educational materials on the topic of violence against all oppressed and minority groups, including lesbian and gay people; and

Calls upon all local churches, Associations, Conferences, national agencies, Instrumentalities and other institutions to become aware of oppressive violence against lesbian and gay people within their jurisdictions and to develop ways to put it to an end.

Subject to the availability of funds.