

**No. 9721**

**(Sense-of-the-Assembly)**

**THE CHURCH'S LEADERSHIP IN SEX EDUCATION**

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, sexuality is a gift of God, who made us male and female - each in God's image; and

WHEREAS, our sexuality is an aspect of who we are as human beings and our way of living in the world as male and female persons; and

WHEREAS, our sexuality is called good by God, and is a key part of Christian fulfillment; and

WHEREAS, we in the church and in society have often failed to teach both the joys and the responsibilities of the stewardship of our God-given sexuality; and

WHEREAS, the church and our society reflect abuses of our God given sexuality through sexual harassment, rape, promiscuity, rigidity, and many forms of selling sex and using sex to sell; and

WHEREAS, the church community holds the responsibility to teach, model and bear witness to a healthy understanding of sexuality but has failed to fulfill this responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the church should offer strong, faithful sexuality counsel to families, children, youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ, after many years of careful study, has developed a curriculum for adults based on a Biblical understanding of sex, and has instituted a pattern of careful selection and training of teachers for this program, and is willing to share this program with us; and

WHEREAS, many church organizations have developed curriculum for adults and children based on biblical understanding of sexuality, and are willing to share these materials with us;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Denver, Colorado, July 25-29, 1997:

1. Encourage congregations to speak openly and teach about human sexuality from a Christian perspective.
2. Encourage congregations to make use of the comprehensive sexuality bibliography available from Homeland Ministries.

3. Encourage all manifestations of the church, to make use of the various sexuality education materials already available with special attention being given to opportunities for partnerships with others involved in sexuality education, with special encouragement to congregations and regions to work in partnership with congregations, associations, and conferences of the United Church of Christ.
4. Encourage Homeland Ministries to work with the staff of the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries to make use of curriculum such as "In God's Image" and to cooperate with them in selecting and training persons qualified to teach such curriculum.