

**Inviting the United Church of Christ
to Join the Council for American Indian
Ministry in the Life and Death Struggle
Against Alcohol, Drug and Inhalant Abuse**

WHEREAS, the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) was created by the Eight General Synod, United Church of Christ in 1971, and

WHEREAS, the Council for American Indian Ministry is charged by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ with being the principal policy maker for Indian Ministry in the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS, the Council for American Indian Ministry is composed of 10 members representing 23 Indian churches from three states in which there are located 16 Indian Reservations and three members representing urban Indian churches and National Indian concerns, and

WHEREAS, because the Council for American Indian Ministry does keep as its specific and utmost concern the betterment of Indian society as a whole through work of these churches, and

WHEREAS, to accomplish this the Council for American Indian Ministry does assist the Indian congregations to nurture their members' faith, to combat the destructive and chaotic force of community life, and to participate in the unending fight for justice for Indian people, and

WHEREAS, the Council for American Indian Ministry does recognize that the abuse of alcohol, other drugs and inhalants on reservations and in Indian communities throughout the United States is on the rampage, and

WHEREAS, the Council for American Indian Ministry does also recognize that this abuse and dependency has resulted in alcohol being the number one health problem and a leading cause of death by illness, suicide and accidents, on many of this nation's Indian Reservations, and

WHEREAS, the Council for American Indian Ministry has a heartfelt concern and a genuine fear for our people who are helpless to this disease and especially for our very young people who are being caught up by the disease and affected by its far reaching ramifications.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins the Council for American Indian Ministry in declaring its commitment to combating this disease by reaffirming our concern for youth and prioritizing youth program development, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod recommends to its members/member churches and to its budget planners that their plans do reflect this priority, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod recommends that the whole of the United Church of Christ, through the President's Office, and through the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and its Divisions, join the Council for American Indian Ministry in this life and death struggle against alcohol, drug and inhalant abuse by:

1. Assisting in developing an awareness program for our United Church of Christ churches, utilizing the Office for Church in Society, Office for Church Life and Leadership, Stewardship Council, Office of Communication, Commission for Racial Justice, Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, while seeking linkages with human services/resources.
2. Exercising their U.S. Legislative influence including con-

tacting the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives to support the Indian Health Care Bill and the Indian Juvenile Alcohol and Drug Abuse Bill.

3. Assisting and enabling financially to develop pilot projects and further develop existing projects for our Indian Youth.
4. Inviting the Council for American Indian Ministry to make a progress report to General Synod Seventeen.

6. RESOLUTION "PORNOGRAPHY"

The Moderator introduced Rev. George (Bill) Webber (NY), Chairperson of Committee 22, who referred the delegates to the blue document which had been distributed. He moved that General Synod Sixteen adopt the Resolution on pornography. There was no discussion and it was

87-GS-99 Voted: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Pornography."

Pornography

INASMUCH, as the United Church of Christ is concerned with the moral and ethical atmosphere of our communities; and

WHEREAS, human sexuality and the human body are gifts of God's good creation; and

WHEREAS, pornography which depicts violence and abuse of children, women, and men in sexually explicit situations degrades all people, exploits children, and assaults human dignity; and

WHEREAS, such pornography undermines the family structure as well as church and community values; and

WHEREAS, the use of children in pornographic materials is growing at an alarming rate and that "kiddie porn" is part of a growing eight billion dollar industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod:

1. Strives clearly to articulate its abhorrence of pornography which demeans and victimizes children, women, and men, takes sex out of the context of God's gift to humankind and makes sordid that which is holy.
2. Communicates that position to its members, its associates in the Christian community and to the general public.
3. Urges all its constituents, pastors and lay persons, to take an active role to develop an awareness of the depth of the problem and the implications for the church and community and to take appropriate action.
4. Urges that each local congregation strive to minister to both those who have become victimizers and those who are or who have been victimized by violence, pornography and sexual abuse, affirming the love of God that is for all persons.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Sixteenth General Synod adopts this Resolution as a church-wide concern, calls upon the support of every local United Church of Christ church in this matter, and urges the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to develop strategies and programs to implement this Resolution.

7. PRONOUNCEMENT "HEALTH AND WHOLENESS IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC"

The Moderator called on Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman, Chairperson of Committee 3, who referred the delegates to the gray sheet which had been distributed. Ms. Hoffman recommended the following proposed additions to the printed material.