

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

The Rev. James Link (OHIO) stated he felt this Proposed Pronouncement represents a narrow interpretation of scripture composed of single line quotes taken out of context and urged defeat of the proposed pronouncement.

Ms. Robin Fox, Executive Director Friends for Life (PSE), spoke in favor of the proposed pronouncement. Ms. Fox stated scientists agree the unborn child is a human being. The Sixteenth General Synod delegates passed a statement that children have a right to develop spiritually, etc., and to life in freedom and dignity.

The Rev. Samuel Buehrer (OHIO) asked that scientific language be used all the way through the proposed pronouncement if it is to be used at all.

Ms. Carol Spangenburg (PNE) called the question and a motion to terminate debate was carried.

A delegate asked for a moment of prayer prior to vote.

91-GS-72 VOTED The Eighteenth General Synod defeats the Proposed Pronouncement "In Defense of Human Life."

14. RESOLUTION "FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REGARDING MEDICAL OPTIONS FOR WOMEN"

Ms. White moved the adoption of the Resolution "Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Information Regarding Medical Options for Women." Ms. White yielded to Jill Kirchner (CAL.S) who spoke for the resolution. Ms. Diana Show (WIS), Ms. Alice Hi (NY) and Mr. Dick Harter (MASS) spoke in favor of the resolution and urged all delegates to support it.

91-GS-73 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Information Regarding Medical Options for Women."

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REGARDING MEDICAL OPTIONS FOR WOMEN

WHEREAS, the Christian tradition affirms that God has endowed women and men with freedom and affirms that justice is served with equal access to information;

WHEREAS, all persons need adequate information to make informed decisions;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling of May 23, 1991 permits legal restriction of information pertaining to all legal medical options for pregnant women in facilities receiving Title X Federal Funds;

WHEREAS, denying to poor persons information that is accessible to persons of financial means is unjust; and

WHEREAS, religious liberty, freedom of speech, equal access to information, and the right of conscience are cherished and vitally important elements in our democracy and in our moral lives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod affirms the right of freedom of speech for all Ameri-

cans, and supports the passage of S.323 to overturn the restriction of information regarding all legal medical options for pregnant women, encourages the President of the United States to sign such legislation, and calls upon the Congress to resist all attempts to defeat this legislation by Presidential veto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ, local churches and individual members to actively support this legislation by calling upon Congress and the President of the United States to approve S.323.

Subject to the availability of funds.

15. RESOLUTION "PREGNANCY AND CHOICE"

Ms. White moved the adoption the Resolution "Pregnancy and Choice" and yielded her time to Mr. Dahron Johnson (SOC). The Rev. Keith DuVernay (OHIO) and the Rev. Whitney S. Bodman (MASS) urged support of resolution.

91-GS-74 VOTED The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Pregnancy and Choice."

PREGNANCY AND CHOICE

WHEREAS, for 20 years, Synods of the United Church of Christ have affirmed a woman's right to chose with respect to abortion;

WHEREAS, the 16th General Synod affirmed "the sacredness of all life, and the need to protect and defend human life in particular," and affirmed "the need for adequately funded support systems . . . for those who choose to raise children."

WHEREAS, the 16th General Synod also urged "the United Church of Christ at all levels to provide support, resources and information to persons facing unplanned pregnancies;"

WHEREAS, women continue to struggle with decisions about difficult pregnancies;

WHEREAS, the issues surrounding abortion continue to be problematic and divisive, requiring continued prayer, dialogue, and openness;

WHEREAS, we need to be reminded that choice implies alternatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the national bodies and the conferences of the United Church of Christ to:

1. continue to identify, develop, update, and widely distribute resources for women regarding the full range of options for problem pregnancies,
2. provide and encourage opportunities for social service advocates, pastors, pastoral counselors, Christian educators and laity, at regional and local levels, to act together, seeking areas where agreement exists, and to support women in their choices,
3. provide care and support for women facing the emotional, psychological and physical challenges of pregnancy, and
4. affirm a responsible and faithful male role in sex, marriage, and reproduction.

Subject to the availability of funds.