



Abortion

1989

1982

**OCTOBER 1989
FREEDOM OF CHOICE**

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a long and honorable history of celebrating diversity of thought and belief, and;

WHEREAS, we recognize the extreme ambiguities and lack of consensus surrounding the issue of abortion and the beginning of human life in both the scientific and Christian communities, and;

WHEREAS, we who seek to follow Jesus Christ we are called to be compassionate to all people faced with difficult moral decisions, and;

WHEREAS, we understand that in this world's brokenness, women sometimes find themselves with unwanted pregnancies and choose termination as the most responsible decision, and;

WHEREAS, we affirm each individual who makes a choice regarding abortion and their sincere deliberation leading to that choice, and;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ affirms the right of every woman to be responsible for moral decisions concerning her body and her reproductive options, including abortion, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Annual Meeting calls upon all people of faith to extend compassionate and empathetic ministry to all persons whose lives we touched by the abortion question.

**OCTOBER 1982
ABORTION**

WHEREAS, the 13th General synod of the United Church of Christ resolved to renew its commitment to the preservation of religious freedom by affirming a woman's right to reproductive choice; and

WHEREAS, the 13th General synod of the United Church of Christ resolved to renew its commitment to the preservation of religious freedom by affirming a woman's right to reproductive choice; and

WHEREAS, the present legal situation which is governed by the Supreme Court decision of 1973 supports the right of every woman faced with a problem pregnancy to make a decision about whether to have an abortion on the basis of her own conscience and personal religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decision of 1973 removed the abortion issue from the realm of criminal law, thus removing the burden of proof from the woman, her doctor, her clergy, her attorney and members of her family who might be involved with her in the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, any law which prohibited the religious freedom to choose contraception, and, when necessary, abortion would establish a particular religious perspective into law, binding all Americans of all faiths; and

WHEREAS, our religious liberty is preserved when we affirm a woman's right to reproductive choice as a religious and moral principle;

BE 11' THEREFORE RECOMMENDED: that this Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

- (1) affirm its support of freedom of choice of abortion as a personal issue and a religious freedom issue,
- (2) holds that our religious liberty is preserved when we affirm that one particular theological view should not be forced on society through its legal system,
- (3) encourage the Maine Conference, Associations, local churches, and individuals to communicate their support of religious freedom and right to reproductive choice to our representatives in the Congress of the United States of America.