No. 8524

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF HANDICAPPED INFANTS

This resolution was COMMITTED to the General Board for further consideration.

No. 8524

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF HANDICAPPED INFANTS

WHEREAS, thousands of infants are born each year in the United States with some birth defect, condition of mental retardation, or other handicap; and

WHEREAS, these handicapped infants have the same God-given right to life as all other persons; and

WHEREAS, the right to life is the most fundamental right of a person; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Regional Assembly meeting at Lewisburg, June 22-24, 1984, approved a resolution affirming the rights of handicapped infants;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985, declare that a handicapped infant's right to life should not be abridged or denied on account of health, defect, or condition of dependency.

Christian Church in Pennsylvania (Disciples of Christ)

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT Resolution No. 8524 for the following reasons:

While the General Board affirms the rights of all persons with disabilities and handicapping conditions, the resolution:

1. Does not adequately define its terms.
2. Does not address the quality of life.
3. Creates unnecessary potential conflicts between church and state, the health professional and parents.

(Debate time 12 minutes)