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A Christian Responce To Development in Genetic Technology

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A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENT IN GENETIC TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS: The General Synod of the United Church of Christ has repeatedly called for a Christian response to developments in genetic technology via

14th General Synod (1983) Resolution: Concern About the Moral and Ethical Implications of Genetic Engineering
16th General Synod (1987) Resolution: The Church and Genetic Engineering
17th General Synod (1989) Pronouncement: The Church and Genetic Engineering
21st General Synod (1997) Resolution: The Cloning of Mammalian Species, and

WHEREAS: The media are increasingly filled with stories about dramatic new developments in genetic technology and the dangers of misuse of this new knowledge, and

WHEREAS: From March 31—Apri12, 2000, twenty-four lawyers, physicians, and theologians from South Central Conference gathered at Slumber Falls Camp to discuss these developments in genetic technology and their moral, ethical, social, and theological implications and produced a message on this subject to the churches, and

WHEREAS: Contrary to popular opinion, the Colloquium Membership discovered through their legal members that there is no Article, Clause, or Phrase in the United States Constitution that protects or guarantees the privacy of a person in this country, and

WHEREAS: The Privacy Act of 1974 by the United States Congress and signed into law is of significance, but it does not have the strength that an Amendment to the Constitution would exercise and carry greater weight regarding ethical, moral, and legal matters of privacy of the individual.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod adopts the “Message of the Colloquium on Genetics,” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod encourages the associations and local churches to provide opportunities and resources for their members to become informed about developments in genetic technology and the moral, ethical, social, and theological implications raised by these developments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests the Office of the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and the Justice and Witness Ministries to initiate a Privacy Amendment to the United States Constitution and identify other allies in support, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Message and Resolution be sent to the president of the United States, governors, senators, and members of Congress from the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas for consideration and action.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

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