

1978 LCA CONVENTION MINUTE ON THE SUBJECT OF ABORTION

Clarifying Minute to be appended to
the 1970 LCA Social Statement on Sex, Marriage, and Family
(Twelfth Biennial Convention, Toronto, Ontario 1984)

The 1970 convention of the church adopted the Social Statement on Sex, Marriage and Family. That statement provides basic principles on abortion based on theological grounds with socio-ethical considerations to be taken into account. Specific decisions are to be dealt with in counseling situations. (See also Report of the President, p.28, left column.)

The statement opposes

- a. Abortion on demand—“Earnest consideration should be given to the life and total health of the mother, her responsibilities to others in her family, the stage of development of the fetus, the economic and psychological stability of the home, the laws of the land, and the consequences for society as a whole”; and
- b. Use of abortion as an alternative form of contraception—“... the fetus is the organic beginning of human life, ...”

The Division for Mission in North America provides helpful interpretation in its study book “The Problem of Abortion after the Supreme Court Decision.”

The Committee on Memorials from Synods recommends that the above minute be transmitted to the Nebraska, Central Pennsylvania and Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Synods as the response to their memorials.