

Creation of Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Overture 92-79. On Taking Additional Steps to Implement "To Meet AIDS with Grace and Truth" —From the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. 878 1992

[The assembly adopted *Overture 92-79* with amendment. See pages [106.](#)]

Whereas, the 203rd General Assembly (1991) took additional steps to implement "To Meet AIDS with Grace and Truth," the resolution at the 200th General Assembly (1988) by proclaiming the AIDS /HIV crisis to be a continuing issue of utmost importance and urgency for the church; and 878 1992

Whereas, the 203rd General Assembly (1991) instructed the ministry units, especially the Racial Ethnic Ministry Unit and the Women's Ministry Unit, to develop an action plan for AIDS ministry, calling upon the expertise of the Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN), established and supported by the Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry Unit, and to report back to the 204th General Assembly (1992) their plans; and 878 1992

Whereas, board members of the Presbyterian AIDS Network initiated dialogue with representatives of all ministry units in November 1991, and PAN members recognized and commended all units on measures taken to that point to deal with the AIDS /HIV crisis, and offered concrete recommendations for further actions; and 878 1992

Whereas, PAN and all ministry units are in a continuing dialogue of cooperative response to the challenge to educate, to advocate, and to minister as the body of Christ in the midst of an ever-escalating epidemic; therefore, be it. 878 1992

Resolved, That the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy overture the 204th General Assembly (1992) to take the following steps to engage the total Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) including all governing bodies, congregations, and members in meeting this challenge: 878 1992

1. Instruct the General Assembly Council to direct the Theology and Worship Ministry Unit to designate a Sunday on its calendar as Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Day; preferably a Sunday in October, which is AIDS Awareness Month, or a Sunday near December 1, which is World AIDS Day. 878 1992

2. Instruct the ministry units and the General Assembly Council Finance Committee to expand their efforts to [prevent,] educate, minister, and advocate in the HIV/AIDS crisis and to continue to call upon the expertise of Presbyterian AIDS Network as they allocate resources to promote churchwide observance of Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Day. 878 1992

3. Request that middle governing bodies and congregations observe Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Day utilizing these materials and by sharing them in interfaith efforts within their communities. 878 1992

4. Instruct that whenever and wherever appropriate, persons who are HIV-infected or who have AIDS be involved in all preparations to observe Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Day.