

# The Presbyterian Church (USA) Responds to HIV and AIDS



**Join the Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN),**  
a network of the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association  
(PHEWA)

<http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/pan> and  
<http://www.phewacommunity.org/>

**We are called to love.** God does not punish with sickness or disease but is present together with us as the source of our strength, courage and hope.

**We are called to offer compassionate care.** We must assure that all who are affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic will have access to compassionate, nonjudgmental care, respect, support and assistance.

**We are called to witness and do justice.** We are committed to transform public attitudes and policies, supporting the enforcement of all local and federal laws to protect the civil liberties of all persons with AIDS and other disabilities.

**We promote prevention.** Within the context of our faith, we encourage accurate and comprehensive information for the public regarding HIV transmission and means of prevention.

**We acknowledge that we are a global community.** While AIDS is devastating to the United States, it is much greater in magnitude in other parts of the world community. We recognize our responsibility to encourage AIDS education and prevention policies, especially in the global religious programs we support.

**We deplore the sins of intolerance and bigotry.** AIDS affects people of any gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or age group. Yet stereotypes and discrimination keep many from receiving testing, support and treatment.

**We challenge our society.** Because economic disparity and poverty are major contributing factors in the AIDS pandemic and barriers to prevention and treatment, we call upon all sectors of society to seek ways of eliminating poverty in a commitment to a future hope and security.

**We are committed to action.** We, as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), individually and in our communities, will seek to respond to the needs around us.

Adapted from statement of the 206th General Assembly (1994)