

1973

RESOLUTION: THE RIGHT TO DIE

WHEREAS little help is made available to physicians and families who must make, very often in a matter of minutes, such traumatic decision as to "the right to die," transplants, artificial organs, hormone injections, etc. We feel it is high time that such a forward looking religious body as the church should have this under study and formulate a framework of procedure on a general outline to support the families and physicians who have to make such decisions.

WHEREAS the medical profession and families are greatly concerned with the ethical and moral decision making in the handling of irreversible terminal illness, and in the decision making regarding transplants and artificial organs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our church establish a committee which will study and present a statement to the 1974 Annual Meeting to assist our church families in such decision making.

BE IT FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a dialogue be set up in our local churches between members of the medical professions, legal professions and laity fully exploring the ramifications in above stated decision making.