

**“Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there? Why
then has the health of my poor
people not been restored?”**

Jeremiah 8:22 (NRSV)



The Presbyterian Church Responds to HIV/AIDS

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

pan Presbyterians
AIDS Network

www.pcusa.org/phewa/pan

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. 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. 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 is not a "gay" disease. The numbers of (infected) women and children are increasing at alarming rates. It affects men, women and children of all races. 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.

On calling for Compassionate Ministry in
Dealing with the issue of AIDS —
206th General Assembly (1994)

Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness Sunday —

The PC(USA) General Assembly designates the second Sunday in October for HIV / AIDS awareness. PAN designs worship material that can be used at that time and also for World AIDS Day, December 1.

Advocacy & Education — PAN members lead study seminars, facilitate conference workshops, conduct seminary consultations, serve as overture advocates, preach and participate with a wide-range of AIDS associations, nationally and internationally. They welcome your invitation to work with your congregation, presbytery and synod.

What your church can do —

Raise awareness of the issue and increase the support
Break the silence on HIV / AIDS
Stand together with partner churches
Offer practical support
Speak up for and with the voiceless



PAN is one of the ten Networks of the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association (PHEWA). Other Networks work in the areas of addictions, church-based community organizing, domestic violence, reproductive health, chaplaincy and pastoral counseling, child advocacy, disabilities, health ministries and parish nursing, and serious mental illness. *Visit the web site below to learn more and to become a member of PAN and/or other networks.*

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