



## Health Care

### Ethical Perspective

- Ⓒ Health and healing is central to Christianity.
- Ⓒ Government's responsibility is to the common good.
- Ⓒ Access to health care is a social good. It is unseemly to apportion it as a market good.
- Ⓒ Human beings have equal dignity before God. Justice therefore requires equality in health care quality for all.
- Ⓒ The NYSCC and its member denominations have long favored universal health care as a vital basic right.

### Background

#### Situation

- Ⓒ Access to health care is a nationwide crisis.
- Ⓒ Growing numbers of New Yorkers have no health care insurance and either rely on emergency room care or wait until a serious condition develops.

#### Assets

- Ⓒ Recognizing the need for access to medical care New York has in place programs like Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus.
- Ⓒ Quality health care professionals and high tech equipment is available in the state.

#### Cautions

- Ⓒ The private sector has demonstrated an inability to provide parity in access.
- Ⓒ Social good is often superseded by private interests (e.g. pharmaceuticals, insurance).



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**Eventual Goal and Steps Toward Goal**

- C The goal is for every New York citizen to have access to health care.
- C Progress will include
  - C No reduction of benefits or eligibility
  - C No burdensome costs to individuals and families (excessive deductibles and co-payments)
  - C No prohibitions on pre-existing conditions
  - C Giving patients (especially with complex needs) priority over systems and institutions
  - C Letting health care providers determine medical care
  - C Reducing the cost of medications to levels paid in other industrial nations
  - C Recognizing the role of non-profit providers, and ensuring funding to continue their mission.

**What Will Help**

- C All incremental proposals need to be oriented to the goal of universal, quality health care for all.
- C Patients not losing services as a move to a new delivery system is implemented.
- C Present decisions should not perpetuate the status quo.

(3/07)

**Member Denominations**

American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ, Empire Baptist Missionary Convention, Episcopal Church, Evnagelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.

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