

National Donor Sabbath: Sacred Text & Policies

Church of the Brethren

Annual Conference - June 1993 Resolution on Organ and Tissue Donation

Whereas: We accept and believe that our Lord Jesus came to give life and give it abundantly; and

Whereas: Consideration for the health and welfare of others is at the heart of the Christian ethic; and

Whereas: Thousands of people who could benefit from organ and tissue donation continue to suffer and die due to lack of consent to donation; and

Whereas: Organ and tissue donation is a life-giving act, since transplantation of organs and tissues is medically proven to extend the lives of persons and improve their quality of life; and

Whereas: Organ donation may be a positive outcome of a seemingly senseless death and can be comforting to the family of the deceased and is conducted with respect and with the highest consideration for maintaining the dignity of the deceased and his/her family; and

Whereas: We have the opportunity to help others out of love for Christ, through the donation of organs and tissues.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference at its meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 22-27, 1993, commits itself and urges Church of the Brethren congregations, institutions, and members to:

1. Inform and educate themselves by taking advantage of resources within their region as to organ and tissue donation;
2. Support and encourage individuals to be in discussion with clergy and family as to their wishes regarding the use of their organs and/or tissue for transplantation upon death;
3. Encourage and support individuals to include within their Advanced Medical Directives instructions as to their wishes for organ and tissue donation. This may include the signing and carrying of a Universal Donor Card;
4. Support those living donors who, with prayerful consideration, make an organ or tissue gift, provided that such a gift does not deprive the donor of life itself nor the functional integrity of his/her body; and
5. Encourage our clergy to prepare themselves to respond to the special needs of family and friends at the time of organ and tissue procurement.