



Human Dignity and Wholeness of Life

(1) Health, healing, and wholeness of life are fundamental aspects of affirming human dignity in a comprehensive and holistic manner. These dimensions are interconnected and contribute significantly to the overall well-being of individuals, communities, and societies. The 15th General Assembly reaffirms its unwavering commitment to upholding the inherent dignity and wholeness of life for every individual, recognising that each person is created in the image of God and is deserving of respect, love, and care. Health, healing, and wholeness are central to God's divine grace and purpose for humanity, which involves a harmonious living-in-community with God, people, and the entire creation. The Church can play a greater role in witnessing and participating creatively in the divine ministry of healing, restoring wholeness in broken human lives with compassion, and being one with our Lord in His self-emptying and unconditional love. In this spirit, we acknowledge the need to address sensitive issues specifically pertaining to disability, mental health, geriatric and palliative care, and sexual and reproductive health within our diverse communities.

(2) The 15th CCA General Assembly:

- Highlights the importance of health ministries and encourages CCA constituencies to support initiatives that prioritise the needs of vulnerable and marginalised populations, encourage partnerships between faith-based healthcare providers and public healthcare systems, promote health education and preventive measures within congregations.
- Acknowledges the silent struggles many individuals face in relation to mental health and encourages the CCA constituencies to foster open dialogue on mental health to reduce stigma, develop support networks within congregations, educate clergy and congregations about mental health issues, and establish outreach, education, and rehabilitation programmes on the risks of substance abuse or addictions.
- Recognises the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities and asks the CCA constituencies to commit to ensuring inclusive access to places of worship and community spaces, promote the full participation of persons with disabilities in church life, advocate for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and collaborate with disability advocacy organisations to amplify the voices of persons with disabilities.
- Acknowledges the needs of our ageing populations and encourages CCA constituencies to pledge to advocate for quality geriatric and palliative care within church-run healthcare systems and wider healthcare systems, train and equip caregivers to provide compassionate care to the elderly, promote community support for older adults to combat isolation, and advocate for policies that safeguard the rights and dignity of older individuals.
- Understands the significance of sexual and reproductive health and encourages CCA constituencies to commit to providing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education within faith communities, advocate for access to affordable and quality healthcare services, and foster a culture of compassion and understanding on issues related to sexuality and reproduction. The situation merits comprehensive responses, including the possibility of conversations on human sexuality with those churches and councils that are open to it.
- Recognises the diversity of families and the importance of family well-being, and encourages CCA constituencies to provide resources and guidance for building strong, loving, and supportive families, offer counselling and support for families facing challenges, promote gender equality and protection of women's and children's rights within families and so address issues including domestic violence, and advocate for policies supporting work-life balance and family-friendly workplaces.
- Encourages all member churches and councils to implement and promote safeguarding practices which demonstrate strong commitments to ensuring the protection of children and vulnerable people participating in church activities. These practices may be assisted by appointing safeguarding leads to manage them. Having safeguarding policies endorsed and affirmed as being at a high standard by non-governmental and/or international organisations gives confidence to both the organisation and participants.
- Assess and, if necessary, change the existing legal frameworks, reporting mechanisms and support services so that they are survivor-informed.
- Incorporate safeguarding as a theme and focus when conferences are planned and ensure that participants are informed as to the CCA safeguarding policies and procedures.