

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

SUPPORTING MEDICAL USE OF MARIJUANA

United Church of Christ

In 2002, the Ministry for Criminal Justice & Human Rights of the United Church of Christ signed on to the Coalition for Compassionate Access Statement stating "we believe that seriously ill people should not be subject to arrest and imprisonment for using medical marijuana with their doctors' approval."

Episcopal Church

At the 67th Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1982 the Episcopal Church passed a resolution in support of medical marijuana. It says, in part, "the Episcopal Church urges the adoption by Congress and all states of statutes providing that the use of marijuana be permitted when deemed medically appropriate by duly licensed medical practitioners."

Progressive National Baptist Convention

In 2004, the Progressive National Baptist Convention signed on to the Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative's sign on statement that reads: "Licensed medical doctors should not be punished for recommending the medical use of marijuana to seriously ill people, and seriously ill people should not be subject to criminal sanctions for using marijuana if the patient's physician has told the patient that such use is likely to be beneficial."

United Methodist Church

In 2004, the United Methodist Church passed a resolution supporting medical marijuana by a vote of 877-19. It reads: "Some countries permit the use of marijuana in medicines. Recently, some states in the United States have passed legislation permitting the medical use of marijuana. The medical use of any drug should not be seen as encouraging recreational use of the drug. We urge all persons to abstain from all use of marijuana, unless it has been legally prescribed in a form appropriate for treating a particular medical condition." The resolution supports the use of marijuana in the 11 states where it is legal.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

In June of 2006, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) became the latest religious body to endorse legal access to medical marijuana for seriously ill patients. By consensus, the denomination passed a resolution:

"Reaffirm[ing] the PCUS statement of the 111th General Assembly (1971) that "marijuana is not properly classified" (*Minutes*, PCUS, 1971, Part I, p. 147).

The resolution also "urges Federal legislation that allows for its use and that provides for the production and distribution of the plant for those purposes."

Union for Reform Judaism

In 2003, at the 67th General Assembly of the Union for Reform Judaism in Minneapolis, Minnesota they passed a resolution in favor of medical marijuana. The resolution in part "calls upon all congregations to advocate for the necessary changes in local, state and federal law to permit the medicinal use of marijuana and ensure its accessibility for that purpose." In also "urges elected officials in the United States to support federal legislation and regulation to allow the medicinal use of marijuana for patients with intractable pain and other conditions, under medical supervision."

Kansas Compassionate Care Coalition

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