



4044 Pasadena Avenue
 Sacramento CA 95821
 (916) 488-7300
 Fax: (916) 488-7310
 info@calchurches.org
 www.calchurches.org

The Rev. Dr. Rick Schlosser
 Executive Director

Elizabeth Sholes
 Director of Public Policy

The Rev. Gail Benson
 Southern California
 Health Care Directot

- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- American Baptist Churches of the West
- Armenian Church of America
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Churches of the Brethren
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Community of Christ
- The Episcopal Church
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Greek Orthodox Church
- Independent Catholic Churches International
- Metropolitan Community Church
- Moravian Church in America
- National Baptist Convention
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Reformed Church in America
- Swedenborgian Church
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Church
- Church Women United
- Orthodox Clergy Council

Key Moral Principles for California Health Policies

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? (Jer. 8:22)

Throughout our deliberations around what form our health care policies will take, it is essential that we consider not just the pragmatic, secular aspects of health care but that *all* our deliberations begin with key moral concerns.

Representatives from a wide variety of denominations call upon us to be mindful of the following guidelines as we ponder the future of this state's health care programs:

- Health care is a human right, not a commodity. Health is an essential part of both individual well-being and societal strength. Health is our *shalom* – wholeness and completeness – not something to be bought and sold.
- Health is an essential part of the Common Good. We are but one people. No one can be excluded if we are to be a healthy society.
- Health care must be affordable for all. Excluding ‘the least of these’ – those whose incomes are too low to sustain spiraling premiums – is a breach of equality and inclusion.
- “Shared responsibility” means everyone, including corporations, have a moral obligation to make health care accessible and affordable.
- Placing corporate profits ahead of individual health needs serves only Mammon, not God and not democracy.
- Assuring full access to health care means placing human needs as the sole priority when planning a health system.

Assuring equal access to health care resources requires us to be mindful of everyone whose language and culture are different from the mainstream. As the ‘stranger among you’ everyone has equal rights even with different needs.