

## Gambling Statement

Wisconsin Council of Churches Board of Directors Statement  
December 2, 1997

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*A note about this statement: Policy statements of the Wisconsin Council of Churches express the biblical, theological, and ethical grounds for the Council's work and witness regarding matters of concern to God's people in the world. They are not binding on member churches, but provide direction and guidance for the Council's education, and worship, advocacy and programming. We hope that they may also be helpful and inspiring to anyone who seeks to think and live as a Christian disciple in the public realm.*

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The Wisconsin Council of Churches is unalterably opposed to any governmental sponsoring of organized gambling in any form, whether by Federal, State, Tribal or County governments. Organized gambling is a burden to society.

At the same time, the Wisconsin Council of Churches totally supports the principle of Tribal Sovereignty. The government of the State of Wisconsin has no right to interfere in the internal decisions of tribal governments, any more than it does in the decisions of other States.

The State does have an obligation to cooperate with tribal governments in order to address the issues which compel those governments to look to gambling to provide an economic base for their citizens.