

1976

RESOLUTION: CIVIL LIBERTIES FOR HOMOSEXUALS

WHEREAS: Christian love for God and our neighbor requires us to cherish the life and liberty of all men and women, working to insure for all individuals a sense of self-being, quality of life, human dignity, and opportunities for personal growth and self-actualization; and

WHEREAS: Every person, as a child of God is endowed with worth and dignity that human judgment cannot set aside; and

WHEREAS: The Christian churches have a long tradition of concern to establish justice where there exists in society and church unwarranted discrimination, bigotry and oppression; and

WHEREAS: A significant minority of women and men in the United States are discriminated against in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and credit because of their sexual or affectional preference; and

WHEREAS: The Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ has declared its support for the enactment of legislation at all levels of government that would guarantee the liberties of all persons, without discrimination related to affectional or sexual preferences, and has called upon the congregations, Associations, Conferences, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to work for the enactment of such legislation at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS: The State of Connecticut has considered, but not passed, such civil rights legislation during its 1975 and 1976 legislative sessions and is likely to consider such legislation again in the 1977 General Assembly; and

WHEREAS: Such discrimination and violation of civil liberties has inflicted an incalculable burden of fear and anguish in the lives of persons in society and in the Church whose affectional or sexual preference is toward persons of the same gender;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, without passing personal moral judgment on the rightness or wrongness of same gender affectional or sexual preference, declares its support for the enactment of legislation in the State of Connecticut and its municipalities, as well as at the federal level of government, that will guarantee the civil liberties of all persons without discrimination related to affectional or sexual preference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ directs its Department of Church and Society to work for the enactment of such civil rights legislation in the State of Connecticut by speaking in support of such proposed legislation at public hearings and by maintaining communications with individual legislators and the governor. The Department is also directed to distribute copies of this resolution to state and federal legislators representing Connecticut residents, at such time as legislation is considered by respective legislative bodies and executive officers

