

1977

RESOLUTION: FINANCING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, The history of the involvement of the United Church of Christ in public education in this country dates-from the early 17th century; and

WHEREAS, Education has been seen as an important element in life since the time of the beginnings of our Judeo-Christian tradition; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Christian Education of our Connecticut Conference has a Committee on Public Education that is interested in the future of these issues; and

WHEREAS, Differences in wealth among Connecticut communities are a major reason for the great differences in funding provided by these communities for support of their public schools; and

WHEREAS, The Connecticut Supreme Court has determined that these inequalities in educational opportunities offered to students are so great that the Connecticut Constitution has been violated, and that accordingly, the present system of financing our public schools is unacceptable;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

A. That the churches of the Connecticut Conference be asked to study this complex issue and that they be urged to let their voices be heard.

B. That this 110th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference urges: -

1. Major increases in state annual support for local public education in order to reduce the present dependence on local property taxes; and

2. The distribution of State Aid to education be adjusted to the end that within a very few years all Connecticut communities be able to provide equal educational opportunities to which each child is entitled under our constitution; and

3. As recognized by the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut, differences in per pupil spending be permitted to reflect economic and educational factors, and of course offerings of special interest to diverse communities.

C. That the Departments of Christian Education and Church and Society be asked to express our concern to the leadership in the governmental and educational fields, and to make resources available to member churches to facilitate the study of the issue.