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RESOLUTION: TOWARD A CHRISTIAN DEATH STYLE

WHEREAS modern funeral practices have little support in the Old Testament affirmation that "all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again," nor from Jesus' evocation of a lavish whited tomb as an image of hypocrisy, nor from the early church's belief that "what is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable", and

WHEREAS Americans spend nearly 5 billion dollars yearly on funerals and related costs, while in Connecticut last year we spent an average of \$2,460 per funeral, and while available cemetery space in this country may be filled within 100 years, and

WHEREAS simplicity and economy in funeral arrangements can sometimes express our Christian faith better than can traditional practices, which are especially burdensome to the poor,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ encourage church members:

1. To plan their funeral arrangements carefully and in writing, and to leave a will;
2. To learn about costs and options from a funeral director, memorial society, or local church; and
3. To consider cremation as an ecological alternative, and organ donation as a humane alternative, to traditional practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference encourage local churches:

1. To educate their people about funeral alternatives;
2. To use resources of the Conference, and of area memorial societies, toward this goal; and
3. To consider the example of First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich in establishing a columbarium for cremated ashes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference

1. Make such educational material available to local churches;
2. Support legislation designed to help the funeral industry become more responsive to human need; and
3. Contact state newspapers about lowering their fees for printing obituaries where such fees seem not in the public interest and discriminatory to the poor.