

1983

RESOLUTION: FAIR AND EQUITABLE TAXATION

WHEREAS, As people of God, as a Covenant People, we affirm the interdependence of all people with each other and with the Creator; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge that our resources and responsibilities come, not from individuals alone, but from our Creator, our forebears, our neighbors, and generations of life yet to be; and

WHEREAS, The Biblical concern for a just and merciful society calls into serious question the present Connecticut state system of taxation, especially sales taxes, which are regressive and place an inordinate burden upon the poor dwelling in the midst of wealth; and

WHEREAS, We share a common social concern that all the people of this state have adequate human services, quality education-, and other necessary public services that assure a high quality of life; and

WHEREAS~ The Task Force on Fair and Equitable Taxation, established by the 115th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference, has concluded that a good tax system needs to be balanced, equitable, and adequate, and continued reliance upon sales taxes, property taxes, and many other selective taxes no longer provides for the needs of the people of Connecticut and is creating a perennial budgetary crisis, making it difficult to provide adequate resources for the present and long-range needs of our society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the One Hundred and Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ declares itself in favor of comprehensive state tax reform that would provide an equitable, just and balanced tax system adequate for the variety of basic human and social needs of the state; such comprehensive tax reform should include a reduction in sales taxes, relief to the tax burden on the poor through a personal income tax, a guard against unrestrained state spending, and adequate revenues that would allow for possible reductions in local property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Church and Society and staff clergy of the Connecticut Conference be encouraged to advocate legislation for comprehensive tax reform in the State of Connecticut, and continue to inform churches of the Connecticut Conference of tax reform issues.