

1984

RESOLUTION: CHRISTIAN CONCERN FOR ANIMALS

WHEREAS, it is basic to our faith that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof": that God is the Creator, Sustainer and Giver of all life, and that it is part of our calling as stewards of the earth to protect the well-being of our fellow creatures, including animals; and

WHEREAS, from time immemorial, animals and human beings have depended upon one another for food, preservation, and mutual care, and that Christian conscience and understanding deeply affect these relationships and should guard against insensitivity on one hand and sentimentality on the other, and that in all of them, the reverence of life is at stake; and

WHEREAS, it is being urged by an increasing number of concerned and thoughtful persons that all living creatures deserve humane and respectful treatment because, as living creatures, it is their right; and

WHEREAS, in regard to animals in the wild, we must now realize that to a great extent, this survival or extinction is in our hands, and that stewardship of the environment of God's creatures now becomes an urgent Christian responsibility calling on us for a thorough and accurate understanding of the ecology, for only so can we preserve and protect the wonderful forms of life which God has made, and upon which our own lives and their quality ultimately depend:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ establish a Committee composed of concerned persons, including members of the medical, veterinary, animal welfare, wild life management, and environmental communities, people connected to large and small husbandry units, and representatives of the United Church of Christ.

To study the relationship between humans and animals from a Christian perspective,

To make visible its concerns for animal life by gathering educational and theological materials on vital issues that affect animals, and distribute this information to its congregations and pastors.

To make the objective of this study be to establish a broad Christian understanding of our relationship with all animals so that there may be a better understanding of our interdependence with them.