

RESOLUTION: IN SUPPORT OF THE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

WHEREAS, "Jesus...said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." (Mark 10: 14-16); and

WHEREAS, The Lord's Supper is the family's meal which nourishes, sustains, heals, and empowers its members to be God's people through the invitation to all by Jesus, our Host, to partake of the bread and cup as gifts of grace: and

WHEREAS, Children are fully a part of the family and it is the church's responsibility to teach all its members through life-long participation in the sacrament., so they may mature in faith; and

WHEREAS, The participation of children in Communion would make real our understanding of the nature of the Church as the community which reflects God's determination to gather people from all culture., races, classes, and ages: and

WHEREAS, The inclusion of children in the worshiping community, in the Sacraments, and in the mission of the church helps the whole people of God to recognize Christ's mandate of love: and

WHEREAS, For the past twenty years there has been a growing conviction of the rightness of children's participation in the Lord's Supper as witnessed in the United Church of Christ'. Book of Worship and by a recent survey of the churches of the Connecticut Conference undertaken by the Committees on Prayer and Spirituality with Children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 124th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, encourage the participation of children in the full worship life of our local congregations, including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we:

(a) Encourage local congregations to explore children's participation at the Lord's Table, and educate themselves regarding the theological and practical issues that pertain to the subject, and educate children regarding participation at the Lord's Table; and

(b) Recommend that the Department of Christian Education and Youth urge the seminaries related to the United Church of Christ to advocate the spiritual nurture and growth of children through worship and the Sacraments: and

(c) Welcome children to the Lord's Table at any Conference meeting where Communion is celebrated; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in recognition of the need for people of all ages to be involved in ongoing education on the nature of Communion, we ask the Department of Christian Education and Youth and the Department of Church Life and Leadership:

(a) To create and provide worship and educational resources for ongoing training; and

(b) To make existing resources known to our congregations; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is our will that this resolution be properly modified according to form and submitted to General Synod XIX for consideration by the whole United Church of Christ.