

1992

RESOLUTION: IN SUPPORT OF AIDS EDUCATION AND MINISTRIES

WHEREAS, God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:39); and

WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to love with a radical love, calling us to love not only our neighbors, but even those whom we disagree or are at odds with (Matthew 5:43-47); and

WHEREAS, Jesus' response to the ill and disabled was full of compassion, healing, and acceptance - not condemnation, fear, or rejection - laying his hands upon all and curing them (Luke 4:40); and

WHEREAS, Connecticut leads all states in the incidence of children with AIDS; and

WHEREAS, AIDS is the third leading cause of death in the 20-40 year old population of our nation; and

WHEREAS, AIDS kills, so AIDS education is a matter of life and death;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 125th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, passionately urge local congregations openly, honestly, directly, and non-judgmentally to deal with the issue of AIDS; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Department of Christian Education and Youth to compile and make available resources for use in local churches for the purpose of educating children, youth, and adults about AIDS; including speakers, audio-visuals, and printed materials on the transmission and prevention of AIDS, encouraging the moral integrity of abstinence and providing instructions on the use of condoms; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge local congregations, using resources compiled by the Department of Christian Education and Youth, to educate children, youth, and adults about the transmission and prevention of AIDS; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge congregations to organize support groups for people living with AIDS, and their family members, loved ones, and friends; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Department of Church in Society, through its public policy advocate, to support legislation around AIDS research, education, outreach, and treatment; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff of the Connecticut Conference be asked to share our concern about AIDS with the Christian Conference of Connecticut and the entire interfaith fellowship at the state level.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that churches be urged to request of their Boards of Education that educational materials prepared by the State Department of Education about AIDS be included in the curriculum of their local school district.