

1994

RESOLUTION: FOR COUNTERING THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

WHEREAS, We have Christ's example of how precious children are when "he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me" (Mark 9:36-37) and we need to affirm this also; and

WHEREAS, Violence is assaulting our children in suburban, rural and inner city areas through physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, and through the media (TV, music, movies, theater, news reports); and

NHEREAS, Nationwide every 13 hours a preschooler is murdered and 248 children are arrested for violent crimes and in Connecticut every 10 days a child is murdered; and

WHEREAS, Children are seriously traumatized by violence, whether they are victims, perpetrators, or witnesses; and

WHEREAS, Patterns of violence are likely to produce more violence in future generations; and

WHEREAS, We are all part of the body of Christ; when one child suffers all of society suffers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 127th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, call upon the members of our congregations, to respond to issues that make this world unfit for children, most particularly those issues related to the occurrence of violence and its effects on the lives of children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Departments of the Conference to work together, and in partnership with the Committee on Children's Rights and other ministries that attend to the wellbeing of children, to develop and disseminate resources to local congregations that will promote and enhance efforts to counter the effects of violence on children through:

(a) Church school curricula for children and adults that emphasize peaceful resolution to conflict; and

(b) Assistance for parents in countering desensitization to violence caused by exposure to communication media with violent overtones; and

(c) Advocacy challenging media violence; and

(d) Support for federal, state and local legislation that serves to decrease the occurrence of violence in children's lives; and

(e) Program assistance to churches working locally to encourage the development of alternatives to violence for children and youth, such as after school programs and employment opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is our will that this resolution be modified according to proper form to be submitted to the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ for consideration.