

1994

RESOLUTION: THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE ENDORSING REGIONAL
COMMUNITY BUILDING

WHEREAS, Christian scriptures inform us that "... God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who honors God and does what is right is acceptable to God." (Acts 10:34-35); and that while God shows no partiality, in the Beatitudes found in Luke, there are blessings pronounced on the poor, those who hunger, those who weep, those who are reviled for Christ's sake (Luke 6:20-22); and

WHEREAS, The structure and identity of our cities and towns have established immense partiality - in the areas of education, economics, race, and legislation - which, more often than not, excludes those whom Christ blesses; and

WHEREAS, Historically, the parish boundaries of Congregational churches in Connecticut, which evolved into town boundaries, have contributed to an emphasis on local autonomy that, as applied in contemporary political systems, has been destructive of a sense of community between peoples and has fostered social isolation, leading to tremendous inequities; and

WHEREAS, The call to be a prophetic church in our communities and in this state, seeking to show no partiality, but also to be a source of Christ's blessings instead of signs of Christ's brokenness, means that our churches must take a stand;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 127th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, declare this Conference to be fully in support of regional solutions which seek to end the inequitable divisions now found in housing, public education, taxation, the environment, regional representation, and economic development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that delegates call upon the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ to endorse specifically regional solutions for:

- Fair housing opportunities, including instituting fair share housing goals with incentives and sanctions to achieve those goals;
- Education equity, including lowering the concentration of poor children in city and rural schools;
- Fiscal equity including fair distribution of tax burdens and equal responsibility for the cost and provision of municipal and social services within a region;
- Environmental Justice, including ensuring all citizens a safe and clean environment and protecting the poor and racial minorities from a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards;
- Fair representation of racial and language minorities in all regional planning and on any elected or appointed bodies which are making decisions for the region;
- Economic development, by encouraging cooperation and collaboration within every metropolitan region to attract and retain businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge Associations of the Connecticut Conference to realign Association boundaries to conform more closely with metropolitan regions across the whole state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite and encourage each church of the Connecticut Conference to foster the call for regional solutions by:

- 1) Participating in study groups that look at regional issues;
- 2) Cooperating with other U.C.C. churches and Associations in funding regional ministries and charities;
- 3) Endorsing the regional solutions contained in this resolution;
- 4) Joining with denominational and interfaith communities to foster a spirit of regional cooperation concerning the focus areas of this resolution; and
- 5) Working with the Policy Advocacy Ministry to support passage of all Connecticut legislation congruent with this resolution.