

1996

RESOLUTION: INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF HOME HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED

WHEREAS, The scriptures tell us in Exodus 20:12 "honor your father and mother," and in Psalm 68:6 that "God gives the desolate a home" (NRSV) and "God setteth the solitary in families" (KJV); and

WHEREAS, There are many scriptural injunctions to care for one another in times of affliction "and whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8 [NRSV]); and

WHEREAS, Providing assistance to families caring for the frail elderly and individuals with disabilities is consistent with Jesus' teachings; and

WHEREAS, Many families who would like to care for their elderly and disabled relatives at home have had to let them go into nursing homes because more resources are available for nursing home care than for care in the homes; and

WHEREAS, The state of Connecticut is 49th in progress toward a community based service system for long term care (ahead of only North Dakota and the District of Columbia); and over 2000 eligible people are on the waiting list for home health care services in Connecticut; and while people in these categories are increasing, available services are decreasing under legislation currently in place; and

WHEREAS, Where home health care is currently available, the average cost is about one-third the cost of nursing home care, and for many elderly and disabled individuals gives a greater quality of life; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 129th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, direct our Policy Advocate to work to effect changes in legislation, making the option of home health care available to more seniors and individuals with disabilities; including services such as visiting nurses, home health aides, physical therapists, senior day care, assisted living, respite care, hospice care, or other non-institutional alternatives to nursing home care.