

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMISSION FOR UNITED MINISTRY IN HIGHER EDUCATION (CCUMHE)

WHEREAS, the First Congregational Church of South Windsor, founded in 1694, has maintained an active interest in calling persons of faith to pursue higher education; and

WHEREAS, the desire of the gathered church for learned clergy continues to this day and is shared by the wider church (United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry); and

WHEREAS, the call to make disciples of all nations is our command, “and teaching them to observe all I have commanded you...” (Matthew 28:20); and

WHEREAS, following the call of Jesus to the disciples, we too are to “put out into deep water for a catch”(Luke 5), and, trusting in Christ, we are to cast our nets on college campuses, praying that our labors will bear fruit; and

WHEREAS, the secular nature of most campus communities in Connecticut makes it difficult to call people to consider “Ministry “ as a career or to discuss their faith; and

WHEREAS the Connecticut Commission for United Ministry in Higher Education, for more than three decades, has supported and encouraged women and men to become teachers and pastors; and

WHEREAS, the national body of the United Church of Christ, by designating an annual Sunday as Higher Education Sunday (October 22, 2006), recognizes the importance of reaching out to the campus community; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ has, for over thirty years, joined ecumenical partners -- the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut, the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, the United Methodist Church, New York Conference, the Presbyterian Church USA, and the Presbytery of Southern New England—in support of the Connecticut Commission for United Ministry in Higher Education (CCUMHE); and

WHEREAS, CCUMHE reaches out in Christ’s name and on our behalf to the campuses of Central, Eastern, Southern, Western Connecticut State Universities, the University of Bridgeport, the University of Hartford, and the Capital Community College and through this endeavor has planted many seeds of faith in persons; and

WHEREAS, without the continued support of the Connecticut Conference, this unique, vital, ecumenical voice may be silenced and lost;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut Conference, UCC renew its commitment to ministry in higher education by encouraging ongoing support for CCUMHE; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Connecticut Conference, UCC continue to celebrate CCUMHE by committing these ministries to regular prayer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each congregation in the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ consider contributing time, resources, and vision to the ministries on our campuses so that the mission of the Connecticut Commission on United Ministry in Higher Education might continue and flourish.