

RESOLUTION: ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY IN CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, we are called as Christians to feed the hungry (Matthew 25:35-41, NRSV), to identify with the poorest and most needy, and to do justice (Micah 6:8); and

WHEREAS, as Christians our faith requires us to take action as heard in scripture, “If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:15-17); and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 United States census, the State of Connecticut is one of the wealthiest states in the nation yet has communities of severe poverty, including the City of Hartford, which is the fourth poorest city in the United States as measured by median income, and an increasing disparity between rich and poor; and

WHEREAS, the problem of hunger in our state is increasing in severity as evidenced by the United States Census Bureau data that indicates Connecticut households experiencing food insecurity – not always knowing where the next meal is coming from – rose by 27% between 2001 and 2004; and

WHEREAS, emergency food distributions by Connecticut's two food banks, FoodShare and Connecticut Food Bank, increased by 36% between 2001 and 2004; and

WHEREAS, we as Christians have a responsibility to alleviate this suffering and address the injustice of hunger among our brothers and sisters, young and old;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the delegates to the 139th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, call upon individuals and congregations to learn about and act upon issues regarding hunger and food insecurity in Connecticut, such as food accessibility, transportation, affordability, decreasing government assistance, and emergency food solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates call upon the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference to convene a ministry team/task force or other appropriate entity to collect hunger related resources and disseminate to all congregations and facilitate the sharing of strategies for action among congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates call upon the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference to direct the policy advocacy ministry of the Conference to expand, in partnership with anti-hunger organizations and coalitions, its advocacy on the state level toward long-term, sustainable policy solutions to make food more affordable and accessible in under-served communities, for example, by providing 1) economic incentives for the development of full-service supermarkets, 2) affordable and accessible transportation to existing food outlets, and 3) support for local food production and distribution within Connecticut.