

1982

RESOLUTION: THE STUDY OF TAX REFORM IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, All money, whether used in private or public ways is considered by Christians to be a sacred trust from God to be used for the good of all Creation in the present for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Words spoken through the prophets, from Amos to Jesus, call people of faith to be concerned with the way in which societies treat the poor and the powerless; and

WHEREAS, Our reformed and congregational heritage, through meetings, resolutions, study, and action, has maintained a sincere and godly concern for a just governance of the commonweal; and

WHEREAS, Fair and equitable taxation is a necessary function of local, state, and federal governments to provide for the common needs of its citizens, 'to assure domestic tranquility', 'to promote the general welfare', and to exercise other responsibilities of a civilized and just society; and

WHEREAS, Ten years ago, the 1972 Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ called on local churches to "study the moral issues in tax reform as a prelude to careful legislative action"; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, the Governor of the State of Connecticut, in response to widespread concern for the adequacy and equitable nature of the present means of raising public revenues, has appointed a Bipartisan Commission on State Tax Revenue and Related Fiscal Policy to study the state's tax structure; and

WHEREAS, A shift of responsibility for health and human services programs is occurring, requiring greater demands on state and local governments to assure the well-being of the poor and the powerless within our society:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ appoint a special "Task Force on Fair and Equitable Taxation" that will have the following responsibilities:

1. Building upon the 1982 report of the Tax Reform Study subcommittee of the Department of Church and Society, to examine the present tax structure of the State of Connecticut from the viewpoint of its consistency with Christian beliefs;
2. To formulate recommendations regarding any changes needed in the tax structure that will make it more consistent with Christian beliefs;
3. To report these findings to all churches of the Connecticut Conference in order to:
 - a. Encourage the study of tax reform, and b. Obtain local church response;

4. To study and formulate a response to the Report on the Governor's Bipartisan Commission on State Tax Revenue and Related Fiscal Policy, also in light of Christian beliefs, and to make both the response and the report of the Governor's Commission available to local congregations for further study and response; and

5. To report back to the 1983 Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ on the findings of the task force, local church responses, and any recommendation for action.