

1983

RESOLUTION. THE RIGHT TO A NATURAL DEATH

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10);
and

WHEREAS, Some lives prolonged by the use of life-sustaining procedures have
deteriorated to the point where the patient cannot participate in decisions affecting
his or her own medical care: and

WHEREAS, There is a need for legislation which authorizes physicians to withhold or
withdraw the life-support systems from terminally ill patients who have previously
declared this to be their choice; and

WHEREAS, It is written, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace" (Luke 2:29)
and that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor

- principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us ~from the love of God"
(Romans 8:38)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of
Christ support the bill which appeared in 1982 and 1983 and will be presented in
1984 before the state legislature which may read as follows:

(AN ACT CONCERNING A RIGHT TO A NATURAL DEATH

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to provide that an adult person may execute a
written declaration instructing his physician to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining
procedures in the event such person should become terminally ill. Any attending physician
who refuses to comply with such declaration shall transfer the patient to another physician
willing to effectuate such declaration. The withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining
procedures shall not (1) constitute suicide (2) affect insurance or (3) authorize, approve or
condone mercy killing or euthanasia.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To provide that the dignity and privacy of terminally ill
patients may be respected even after they are no longer able to participate actively in
decisions concerning their own medical care.)