

1984 RESOLUTION: DEVELOPING LOW-INCOME HOUSING

WHEREAS, our faith calls us to the unified love of God and neighbor; to care for the homeless, the widowed, and the orphaned (Isaiah tells us to "Bring the homeless poor into your house.." and then, ".. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt.." Isaiah 58:7,12), but our cities have been laid waste by the blight of neglect and poverty; and

WHEREAS, many residents of our state live in inadequate housing, as indicated in a 1980 estimate that 173,000 Connecticut citizens or 16% of all households, lived in inadequate residences, and 70% of low-income households lived in sub-standard housing; and

WHEREAS, federal involvement in the development of low-income housing has dwindled drastically, and condominium conversion, higher income people returning to the city and neighborhood commercial development are taking existing housing stock out of the grasp of low-income people; and

WHEREAS, unemployment, crime, and the need for public assistance continue to rise, while public housing and governmental assistance for housing are rapidly becoming less available, resulting in large numbers of homeless and destitute people in our cities indicating the lack of decent affordable housing: -

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 117th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference continue its commitment to housing, expressed through the New Samaritan Corporation, and further foster the development of low to moderate income family housing, including nurturing church sponsored housing projects to revitalize our neighborhoods in urban areas of Connecticut. Such development should also be encouraged in rural and suburban areas of our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Church and Society, the Urban Concerns Committee, and the Minority Empowerment Committee of the Connecticut Conference in consultation with the New Samaritan Corporation be directed by this Annual Meeting to assist churches and non-profit organizations in developing specific housing projects, to promote legislative advocacy programs at the State and Federal levels, and to report on their activities at the 118th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program and budgetary implications of such a design for Conference involvement be presented no later than the 119th Annual Meeting of the Conference for action.