

1986

RESOLUTION: CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO THE PRESENCE OF HUNGER IN THE -
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, We believe that "The Lord God is a God of Justice" (Isaiah 30:18), and that as Christians our faith requires that we respond to the call "to do justice, and to love kindness" (Micah 6:8), and that our righteousness will be judged by our deeds toward "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40), our brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS, Existing federal tax policies favoring the affluent and corporate sectors of our society have shifted the federal tax burden onto the shoulders of the working poor and middle class families of our nation, significantly decreasing the after-tax income and therefore the purchasing power of these families; and

WHEREAS, The combination of decreasing income and mounting inflation has placed many families in, at, or near poverty purchasing level, and

WHEREAS, Current federal budget reductions have cut deeply into the already inadequate social programs intended to aid poor and moderate income people; and

WHEREAS, Soup kitchens and food pantries throughout the state of Connecticut report increasing public demand on their services; and

WHEREAS, This increasing demand seriously strains or exhausts the abilities of these soup kitchens and food pantries to fulfill their missions; and

WHEREAS, The possibility of widespread hunger, greater than can be addressed by present organizations, threatens to become a reality in the state of Connecticut;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 119th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, recognize the presence of hunger in the state of Connecticut, and do hereby

1. Affirm the efforts of the Connecticut Conference for its work with the Connecticut Interfaith Housing and Human Services Corporation to dismantle the systemic causes of hunger in our state; and -
2. Call on the Departments of Mission and Stewardship and Church and Society to promote the Hunger Action Offering in our Conference and, in addition, to develop a plan to distribute systematically the proceeds of this offering to local churches with food programs; and
3. Recommend, in order to help local churches to establish such programs, that the Department of Church Life and Leadership in conjunction with the Department of Christian Education develop and distribute to the churches of the Connecticut Conference a comprehensive church school, youth, and adult program to enable congregations to become aware of and respond to the presence of hunger in their

midst, encouraging "hands on" sharing in this aspect of our ministry by the membership; and

4. Recommend that the Department of Church and Society continue its public policy advocacy on the local, state and national levels of church and government on behalf of the poor and needy.