

1988

RESOLUTION: SPIRITUAL RENEWAL FOR CLERGY, CHURCH EDUCATORS, AND LAY LEADERS

WHEREAS, As early as the story of Creation in Genesis, the Bible establishes the importance of a day of sabbatical rest; and

WHEREAS, In following the example of Jesus Christ we are called by the Spirit to go into the wilderness to rest and pray (Mark 6:30-32, Luke 4:42, 5:15-16, 22:40-41); and

WHEREAS, We believe we need occasionally to put aside our worldly preoccupations, to renew what we are and expand what we can be, as "The glory of God is a human being fully alive" (Irenaeus); and

WHEREAS, We believe God promises spiritual renewal: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30:15); and

WHEREAS, The United Church of Christ at General Synod XV called upon its member churches to provide sabbatical opportunities for clergy and church educators; and

WHEREAS, Our own Connecticut Conference Clergy Compensation Guidelines call upon the churches to provide continuing education time and time for spiritual reflection and growth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 121st Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ urge the Department of Church Life and Leadership, working through Ingraham House Ministries, to provide a three-day annual spiritual retreat with child care for clergy, church educators, and lay leaders, by providing spiritual renewal events with child care, circulating a spiritual life bibliography to churches, and supporting a theologian-in-residence; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the churches of our Conference to create opportunities, time, and financial resources for spiritual renewal.