

1989 .

RESOLUTION: IN SUPPORT OF QUALITY AND INTEGRATED EDUCATION

WHEREAS, We believe that the ancient prophet Micah speaks for God, and that in the call to "do justice" (6:6-8), we are required to transform the institutions of our society so that they no longer deny what rightly belongs to all people; and

WHEREAS, We also believe that God in Jesus Christ embraces the world through reconciliation, "breaking down the dividing walls of hostility" (Ephesians 2:14) and gracing us with courage and hope in our struggles for justice and peace; and

WHEREAS, We are convinced that in today's society quality education is not possible except in a multicultural environment and, most emphatically, that segregation of our children in public schools, whether intentional or unintentional, is educationally and morally wrong; and

WHEREAS, We observe that in Connecticut a pattern of racial and economic isolation is substantial and growing, affecting not only the equity and quality of public education, but the state's moral, social, and economic fiber as well; and

WHEREAS, Voluntary programs which enhance quality public education for all may or may not be the most successful of the alternatives, which include state and court ordered programs, but are the most immediately attainable; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 122nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, support, in principle, the State Department of Education's Reports of January, 1988 and April, 1989, and especially the concept of "collective responsibility whereby there is a voluntary sharing of responsibility to desegregate schools by the state, the districts with racially imbalanced schools, and those school districts contiguous to them; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend (a) that the Department of Church in Society, in collaboration with other departments, associations, and ecumenical bodies, undertake a major effort to educate and mobilize the people of our churches on the issues of quality and integrated education in Connecticut's public schools; (b) that our churches, in all parts of the state, identify the needs of children for quality and integrated education and draw upon the resources of the Conference, the State Department of Education, and local community leaders to address these profound social and moral issues; and (c) that at the next Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference there be opportunity for reports on these issues from our churches as well as the Department of Church in Society.