

1 RESOLUTION: ON THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL CHRISTIAN
2 EDUCATORS AND YOUTH MINISTERS IN THE LIFE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH
3 Submitted by CAUCE, a recognized group of the Connecticut Conference UCC
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5 WHEREAS, In Paul's letter to the Ephesians we are told: "The gifts he gave were that
6 some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists some pastors and
7 teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry for the building up of the
8 body of Christ,..."...(Ephesians 4:11-12 NRSV); and
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10 WHEREAS, "The complicated, rapidly changing and pluralistic environment in which
11 today's congregations live present new challenges which require a professional
12 educational ministry...." (The Professional Church Educators Guide by the
13 Association of United Church Educators 2000); and
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15 WHEREAS, The Mission statement of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church
16 of Christ states: "We come together as Local Churches and members to equip one
17 another to proclaim the Gospel to the communities of Connecticut and to the
18 world by teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, doing the work of
19 reconciliation and justice and living faithfully in daily life. Amen" (Mission
20 Statement of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ adopted
21 October, 1998); and
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23 WHEREAS, Christian Education and Youth Ministry is understood as a professional
24 vocation whether as paid staff or volunteers in the local church setting; and
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26 WHEREAS, These professionals are engaged in ministries that are vital to the spiritual
27 formation, education and growth of our children, youth and adults in these times
28 when it is often difficult to learn what it means to live as a person of faith;
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30 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the delegates of the 136th Annual Meeting of
31 the Connecticut Conference affirm the vital and essential role of Professional
32 Christian Educators and Youth Ministers in the local church;
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge local churches to provide opportunities for
35 continuing education, professional training and spiritual nourishment such as are
36 offered by the Connecticut Conference, professional organizations including the
37 Connecticut Association of United Church Educators (CAUCE) and other
38 educational organizations and institutions;
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That we urge local churches to provide fair wages and
41 benefits to Christian Educators and Youth Ministers as voted and recommended
42 by the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference in 1999 as well as the
43 salary guidelines as recommended by CAUCE in 2003;
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45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That we join with all clergy and lay members of the
46 Connecticut Conference in prayerful support and appreciation of the vital
47 ministries of the Professional Christian Educators and Youth Ministers of the
48 Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.