

1980

RESOLUTION: ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

WHEREAS at the 1973 Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ a resolution was adopted opposing capital punishment on moral and religious grounds; and

WHEREAS the 12th General Synod, June, 1979, adopted a resolution in opposition to the death penalty; and

WHEREAS the death penalty is in direct opposition to "our understanding of the Christian Faith and the New Testament call to redemptive love, mercy and sanctity of life" (12th General Synod); and

WHEREAS there is no conclusive evidence that capital punishment deters violent crimes; and

WHEREAS the death penalty has now been reinstated in 35 states resulting in over 650 people being confined to death row;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of this Annual Conference and all United Church of Christ members and local churches be encouraged to work for the abolition of capital punishment in the State of Connecticut and the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Church and Society be directed to provide resources to all the churches for the study of this issue;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Church and Society be directed to work for the abolition of the Connecticut death penalty law by speaking against the law at public hearings and by maintaining communication with individual legislators and the Governor.