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RESOLUTION: CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS we believe that equal opportunity should exist in all facets of our economic life, and whereas statistics show that, in fact, minority groups in our society continue to suffer from economic discrimination, and whereas we note with distress and dismay that black organizations in Connecticut devoted exclusively to the extension of minority businesses are still not sufficiently funded at present to provide any risk capital to their constituents, and

WHEREAS we believe that whether or not the physical and material necessities of all peoples of our world village are adequately met is our concern, and

WHEREAS the economic gap between the rich nations and the poor nations continues to grow, threatening widespread political chaos and corresponding social upheaval and human suffering, and whereas our officially recognized development contribution as a nation has declined to well under one-half of one percent of our Gross National Product,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all churches in the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ speak convincingly of their concern about economic development problems and incorporate their commitment into their own program by...

- a. promptly and carefully reviewing present policy and practice regarding all resources, including land holdings, endowment and investments in order to see where and how these might be updated to take advantage of new programs which are designed to provide capital for economic development in areas of urgent need, and by -
- b. determining through the Conference and other key agencies what are the full range of investment opportunities available to the local church today, and determining especially those which serve the economic development needs mentioned above, and by
- c. establishing a responsible set of criteria for all future investing, and by
- d. carefully reviewing all planned capital expenditures, especially those relating to new buildings and expansion of present plant, and making sure these make sense in a world where two-thirds of the people suffer from malnutrition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our churches remain alert and open to every opportunity for cooperative ecumenical action in this area of developmental responsibility in order to multiply the strength of our financial efforts.