

1974

RESOLUTION: SUPPORT OF FAMILY LIFE

WHEREAS we note that many marriages are failing and that family life is falling apart with relationships dwindling, and,

WHEREAS we find this in part due to the inability of families to develop a common value system or to respect diverse values within the same household, and

WHEREAS the inability to communicate with each other in a polarized society is reflected in a lack of communication within families, and

WHEREAS divisive pressures are exerted upon families from many segments of society including the Church which has tended to increase polarization by its systematic separation of family members by age and sex (youth groups, men's fellowships, women's groups, etc.) and

WHEREAS the times we live in make even more critical the need for family members to get to know and understand one another, to build on their similarities, accept their differences, and to become more human,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference urges churches to encourage and enable family members to renew their relationships both at home and in church activities by:

- a. the systematic setting aside of time each day and each week for family members to spend together in recreational activities (other than watching TV)
- b. the strengthening of ministries to popular family activities such as camping
- c. the increase of family centered church activities such as informal fellowship evenings, family worship, and interest centered, combined aged Christian education,

And that we urge churches to encourage their minister and his or her family to participate in this renewal by:

- a. exerting the kind of lay-leadership and program structure which frees ministers from being ever present days and evenings "at the church;
- b. expecting ministers to practice what they preach, insisting that they take time each day, at least one day a week, and a vacation each year to be with their families.
- c. respecting minister's family time by confining routine business to certain pre-arranged hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that churches of the Conference seek ways of including single persons, widowed persons and divorced persons within the church family.

