

1975

RESOLUTION: SUPPORT OF THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

WHEREAS for more than two centuries our churches have depended for a continuing supply of learned ministers on the excellent theological seminaries related to us both by ties of tradition and organic connection, and

WHEREAS support of these schools from endowments and gifts of individuals and churches has become increasingly inadequate because of the relentless pressure of inflation, and

WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has not been able to continue the support it has given to them in the past because of dwindling funds available, and has asked Conferences and local churches to try to fill this gap by making regular contributions, (in the case of local churches at the suggested rate of 2% of the local expense budget) especially to those schools that by charter are formally related to the United Church of Christ,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut Conference urges all its churches to make annual gifts to a theological seminary or seminaries, taking into account the following considerations:

1. Since it costs a seminary about \$12,000.00 to educate each minister and 40 years of service is above the average professional life of a minister, a church which intends to pay the replacement cost in terms of education of its pastor should contribute at least \$300.00 per year to some theological seminary for each pastor who serves it. Others may choose the General Synod norm of 2% of the local expense budget.
2. Such gifts may be sent to seminaries directly or through the Conference treasury; if they are sent directly the Conference should be informed so that we may be able to report how much support seminaries are receiving from our churches.
3. Churches will choose which seminary to support using their own criteria, among which are the following:
 - a. Bangor and Andover Newton are the two seminaries in New England related by charter to the United Church of Christ.
 - b. Bangor, which makes it possible for people with late vocations to enter the ministry even if they have not completed college, has been in a deficit situation for many years.
 - c. Hartford, which conducts educational programs for pastors already serving, and Yale Divinity School have long standing ties with this Conference because of their location and the relationships nurtured between them and our churches over the years.

d. Some churches will choose to support the schools from which their own pastors graduated.

4. The Mission and Stewardship Department in consultation with the Department of Church and Ministry will inform our churches of this Conference recommendation and furnish them information on the particular emphases of the several schools.