

1979

RESOLUTION: TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS the Supreme Court forbids the promotion of any type of religion, theistic or atheistic, in the public schools. Both the Court and the state of Connecticut vigorously endorse the concept of teaching about religion. In the words of Justice Thomas C. Clark, "One's education is not complete without a study of comparative religion or the history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization. It certainly may be said that the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities," and

WHEREAS in recent months there has been much discussion pro and con the proposal to reintroduce the Bible into the classrooms and libraries of our public schools; and

WHEREAS simply placing the Bibles in public schools to be perused at random by curious individuals is no substitute for courses about religion - properly organized, interpreted, discussed and explored under the guidance of a professionally trained teacher, and

WHEREAS public schools in Connecticut are now vigorously proselytizing concerning a variety of secular and atheistic religions, such as Secular Humanism, and

WHEREAS all types of religion, secular or transcendental, have a decisive influence on the formation of a young person's ultimate beliefs, values and personal behavior,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Christian Education of the United Church of Christ of Connecticut immediately inform all member churches about the legal realities concerning teaching about religion in the public schools, and request the Education Management Team of CHRISCON to do the same. They should also guide member churches to educational resource materials on this subject and inform them of those communities in Connecticut that are already actively engaged in teaching such courses in their public schools.