

1981

RESOLUTION: CHILDREN'S CARE IN THE 1980's

WHEREAS Jesus Christ calls us to be a caring community to all individuals regardless of age;  
and

WHEREAS responsible children's care is a portion of this calling; and

WHEREAS the American economy makes it a necessity in many families for both parents  
to be full time wage earners in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS many of the proposed and adopted social service program budget cuts directly  
affect the care, the nurture and the future well-being of America's children; and

WHEREAS of all-children between 3 and 5 years of age, 46% now  
have mothers in the work force;  
the school age child whose mother works is now the rule, not the exception;  
it is estimated that by 1990, 66.7% of all two-parent families will have both parents  
in the work force;  
in the last 10 years, single parent families have increased by 79%, from about 11%  
of all families with children to 19%.  
17% of all families are headed by women;

WHEREAS quality day care can be defined as a program designed to meet the needs of  
children and their families through the use of child development techniques and  
cooperative planning with parents; and

WHEREAS to enable these parents to meet their pressing economic needs, a much larger  
number of child daycare opportunities must be provided to parents; and

WHEREAS America's children need to grow with and learn from caring adults; and

WHEREAS child daycare is a responsible supplement to the care a child receives from  
parent(s);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an interdepartmental Task Force with representatives  
from at least the Department of Church and Society, the Christian Education  
Department, the Committee on Women's Concerns of the Department of Lay Life  
and Work be established and be instructed to work and develop creative strategies  
and commitments concerning child daycare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the 1980's all United Church congregations in the  
Connecticut Conference be urged to study the feasibility of and take appropriate  
action regarding:

I. The role of the churches as advocates for children;

2. Support of parenting in an increasingly complex world, through Christian Education committees and other sources;
3. Support of children through legislation, lobbying, and consumer protection;
4. The cooperation with and support of Human Service Agencies that work in the field of childcare;
5. The commitment of financial and other resources to children's care and advocacy;
6. The cooperation with existing centers and homes, ecumenical enterprises and social service agencies concerned with these issues.