

RESOLUTION: HAZARDOUS WASTE AND WATER POLLUTION

WHEREAS God's intent for creation is that its members live responsibly and creatively with each other, and that intellectual, social and spiritual enterprise be directed at praise and service of God the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer; and

WHEREAS the fruits of our technological endeavor include the generation of many substances hazardous to the health of living things; and

WHEREAS inappropriate disposal of these substances into land, sea and air has resulted in long-term damage to groundwater supplies and a reduction of air quality in many parts of our state; and

WHEREAS significant danger to present and future public health is posed by the presence of hazardous wastes in our air and water supplies, and a risk of genetic damage is feared; and

WHEREAS federal legislation affecting the generation, storage, transport and disposal of hazardous waste requires legal implementation at the state level, and there are currently no adequate legislative provisions for victim compensation or dump-site monitoring;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, to protect the health and welfare of the residents of the State of Connecticut and to maintain land and water resources for our descendents, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ direct the Board of Directors of the Missionary Society of Connecticut to:

1. Appoint a Task Force on hazardous waste to educate local church communities on the potential and actual problems of hazardous waste contamination, to meet with and assist communities struggling with pollution problems, and individuals who are victims of hazardous waste pollution.
2. Direct its lobbyists to advocate legislation addressing the rights of victims of hazardous waste pollution to compensation for personal and property loss and loss of drinking water; to demand from appropriate regulatory agencies regular testing of public and private water sources known or believed to be at risk of contamination.
3. Direct its lobbyists to advocate legislation aimed at generating funds for victim relief, staffing of regulatory and monitoring agencies, and replacement or restoration of contaminated private water sources.