

1982

RESOLUTION: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, We affirm the truth inherent in Paul's statement that we "are the body of Christ and individually members of it" and "if one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together;" and

WHEREAS, All persons at some time suffer from physical, emotional, mental or spiritual infirmities; and

WHEREAS, Attitudinal and physical barriers against persons with disabilities are inhibiting our Christian Education programs from reaching both adults and children who are disabled; and

WHEREAS, Local churches and other ministries of the Christian Church need encouragement and support to discover and create resources, to sensitize teachers and students, and to overcome barriers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference of the UCC directs its Department of Christian Education:

A. to sponsor, ecumenically if possible, a conference on Christian Education for Persons with Disabilities, addressing at least the following concerns:

- (1) teacher training (sensitizing and skill development);
- (2) consciousness raising among church members and church school children;
- (3) developing relationships between families of persons with disabilities and the church and the church school;
- (4) the rights of persons with disabilities and the role of the church as advocate;
- (5) making classroom and all church facilities accessible;
- (6) finding, creating and using accessible curriculum, resources and methods; especially to meet the need of retarded and learning disabled persons for Christian Education and full inclusion in the body of Christ;
- (7) the question of mainstreaming;
- (8) special opportunities and needs of small churches and large churches in ministry with persons with disabilities.

B. to provide continuing resources for the churches in this area of concern.