

1985

RESOLUTION: ON THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

WHEREAS, The United Church of Christ takes seriously the model of God's love as revealed through Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ loved children and understood their vulnerability (Matthew 18:6); and

WHEREAS, Christ's love was affirming, not destructive; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures remind us, "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful, it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own ways it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right." (1 Corinthians 13:4-6); and

WHEREAS, It is a fact that:

1. One of every four girls and one of every ten boys in this nation will be sexually abused before they reach adulthood;
2. Seventy-five percent of sex abuse offenses are committed by someone the child knows;
3. Education is an effective method of prevention; and

WHEREAS, The Christian way of life is to care for others (John 13:34-35), especially our children (Mark 10:14-15)s and

WHEREAS, Keeping children safe from sexual abuse is our Christian responsibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 1985 Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ do hereby resolve and urge that:

1. Individuals and congregations support community efforts in the prevention of child sexual abuse;
2. Local churches provide their buildings and facilities, as well as financial assistance, for materials and programs on the prevention of child sexual abuse;
3. Individuals and congregations encourage and support the implementation of a personal safety curriculum in local schools;
4. Local churches implement a personal safety curriculum when not implemented by the schools or other community resources;
5. The Department of Church Life and Leadership see that clergy and other church professionals are offered training in counseling victims and offenders of sexual abuses

6. Clergy join community networks in the prevention of child sexual abuse;
7. The United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries further develop the concept in its educational materials that the Church is part of the child's support system; that people of the Church are loving, caring, forgiving people who want to listen and help;
8. The Connecticut Conference inform its members of legislation being considered that will affect the issue of child sexual abuse so that members can inform legislators of their will on the matter and
9. Individuals and congregations encourage and support community treatment centers for victims and offenders of child sexual abuse.