

1986

PRONOUNCEMENT: ENCOURAGING UNITY WITHIN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, The people of the United Church of Christ in churches of both Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian heritage commonly affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and head of the church; and

WHEREAS, We make common affirmation that we are "The People of the Book," i.e., that the Holy Scriptures are our only rule of faith and order; and

WHEREAS, We perceive that worship styles, expressions, and liturgical orders are significantly similar; and

WHEREAS, We have a common history rooted in the theology, purpose, and ideals of the Reformation - and one special shared ideal, religious freedom - but sense that though we share this common heritage, we have moved in slightly different cultural paths in following the ideals of the Reformation; and

WHEREAS, We sense a common calling to respond to God's love by offering our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to do Christ's mission in the midst of the world; and

WHEREAS, We share similar concerns for the spreading of the Gospel and education in the faith of persons of all ages and conditions; and

WHEREAS, We share a deep and abiding concern for the future and direction of the United Church of Christ and the Church Universal; and

WHEREAS, We share a common feeling of the critical need for unity within the United Church of Christ, and with the larger Church in ecumenical efforts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 119th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference seek ways to bridge the cultural and historical gaps that presently exist between the two traditions of the United Church of Christ that we may more authentically and effectively fulfill the prayer of our Lord, "That They May All Be One."