

1988

RESOLUTION: ON WORKPLACE AND FAMILY LIFE

WHEREAS, Scripture reminds us that we are all children of God, and heirs to the promise of God (Romans 8:16-17); and

WHEREAS, The words of Jesus call us to "See that you do not despise one of these little ones..." (Matthew 18:10), and Jesus identified a child as the greatest in the realm of heaven, and taught his followers to receive children, for "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in me to stumble, better to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18: 5-6); and

WHEREAS, Historically, people of faith have responded to that call by caring for children in church-housed and church sponsored child care centers, in addition to traditional Christian education activities; and

WHEREAS, Currently in the Connecticut Conference, 110 churches house licensed child care programs, and other congregations offer before- and after-school programs, summer tutorials, parent training, and other caring ministries for children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Fewer than one-third of the children needing day care in our state can be accommodated in the existing licensed programs, and the demand for care continues to grow as the number of working parents increases; and

WHEREAS, Delegates to the 114th Annual Meeting called attention to the then gathering child care crisis in a resolution seeking support for child care and family life initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 121st Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, stand with and seek to protect the children of our state and country by encouraging public policy and workplace changes such as flexible medical and leave benefits, time- and job-sharing, on- and off-site day care, and other responses which promote quality care for children and their families; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm the child care, workplace and family life programs initiated by local congregations and the Department of Christian Education and Youth, and urge increased support of child welfare advocacy efforts throughout the Conference by:

1. Encouraging interdepartmental programming in the family life and workplace area; and
2. Fostering ecumenical and interfaith partnerships aimed at strengthening our witness and response to the problems facing children and their families; and

3. Calling upon members of our church family who are policy makers in the corporate, business, and public sectors to be sensitive to changing family patterns and the flexible responses they require; and
4. Supporting individuals and congregations currently offering child care programs and urging churches to consider expanding preschool programs into full-time child day care; and
5. Enabling the Department of Christian Education and Youth, the Department of Church and Society, and other appropriate bodies to monitor church-wide involvement in the family life area, including advocacy for state and federal legislation, and to communicate their findings to members churches and the 122nd Annual Meeting; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all clergy, church educators, and members of Connecticut Conference churches to reflect issues of family life through preaching and worship, education, mission, and parish life; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Connecticut Conference Board of Directors, the First Church of Christ, Hartford, and Broadview Community Church, U.C.C., Hartford, to be developed into appropriate form for submission as a resolution to General Synod XVII of the United Church of Christ