

1989

RESOLUTION: AFFIRMING AND RECLAIMING OUR BIBLICAL HERITAGE
FOR EVANGELISM, JUSTICE, AND PEACE

WHEREAS, A prophet declares, "God has showed you, O people, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8); and

WHEREAS, An apostle affirms, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to God's self, entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ ... In Christ we might become the righteousness of God" (II Corinthians 5:19-21); and

WHEREAS, An evangelist tells how "Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the Sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and being given the book of the prophet Isaiah, Jesus opened the book and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me - because God has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, and has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to those who are blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord'" (Luke 4:16-19); and

WHEREAS, Jesus charged his disciples in the last days of his resurrection ministry, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of God, and of Jesus Christ the beloved Child of God, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 122nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, affirm those ministries of humility, righteousness, release, and discipleship which now exist and recommend that these ministries grow, evidencing a commitment

- a) to the unchurched and the estranged, that they be called to a reconciled life in Jesus Christ; and
- b) to ministries of mercy and compassion for the poor, the oppressed, and the outcast as Christ's ambassadors; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend the allocation of one-third of the funds received from the next Conference Capital Fund Drive or the Conference portion of the next national campaign, whichever comes first, to support and build ministries in the Connecticut Conference which reflect our Biblical heritage of evangelism, justice, and peace; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Church in Society, Church Life and Leadership, Christian Education and Youth, and Stewardship and Mission Interpretation, with the Conference Minister and Board of Directors, be assigned the responsibility for developing the criteria for the Implementation of effective and faithful use of these funds in, but not limited to, such areas as Hispanic

church development; Black church development; renewal of urban churches; faith nurturing and skill training for transformation of leaders, churches, and their ministries; immersion experiences; new ministries for social justice by local churches; and scholarships for the same, that we may be one in covenantal growth and discipleship.