

1989

RESOLUTION: SOLID WASTE AND ECOLOGICALLY SOUND LIFESTYLE

WHEREAS, The earth is God's household or "oikos," the Greek root of "ecology," "economics," and "ecumenism"; and God's earth provides us a home where we can work with all of our brothers and sisters toward God's will for wholeness and justice for all creation; and

WHEREAS, Scripture reveals God's will that humans shall have dominion (stewardship or responsibility) over all the earth (Genesis 1:26); that we must provide for the future, acting as trustworthy stewards (1 Corinthians 4:2) of the earth's finite resources on God's behalf (Genesis 41:46-57); that Jesus Christ teaches the church that our actions on the earth have cosmic consequences in God's will for redemption (Matthew 16:18-20); and

WHEREAS, Within one century disposable plastics have created a crisis which threatens life on our planet; for example, over fourteen trillion pounds of plastic waste were deposited in the world's oceans in 1988, fouling the water and killing sea life; and

WHEREAS, Landfills will soon be at capacity with solid and hazardous waste threatening the world's water and food supplies and eliminating public access to open space and availability of safe and adequate housing; and

WHEREAS, As plastic products break down, the protective ozone layer of our atmosphere IS depleted at an alarming rate, threatening the fertility of land and seas and the health of future generations; and

WHEREAS, "We have not inherited the earth from our parents; we are borrowing it from our children" (Environment at Risk by Lester Brown; Heldref Publications, Washington D.C.); and

WHEREAS, The state of Connecticut has mandated that 25 percent of our solid waste stream must be recycled by 1991;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 122nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, stop denying the problem and adopt measures to save us from our self-destruction; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Department of Christian Education and Youth and the Youth Council of the Connecticut Conference to encourage the Conference to place a high priority on an ecologically sound lifestyle, especially in regard to faithful stewardship of solid waste, through prayer, worship, preaching, finances, education, and example, refraining from all use of "disposable" products and recycling solid waste whenever possible; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Department of Church in Society to engage every means at its disposal to implement this resolution.

