

1990

RESOLUTION: TO SUPPORT RECONCILIATION IN EL SALVADOR

WHEREAS, God continuously issues the call to "beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4); and

WHEREAS, God continues to call us to be "agents of reconciliation, breaking down walls of division" (Ephesians 2:11-18); and

WHEREAS, We believe that within the Body of Christ, "when one member suffers, all suffer together" (1 Corinthians 12:26); and

WHEREAS, The war in El Salvador has claimed the lives of over 74,000 of our brothers and sisters in its ten year history, including both United States and Salvadoran religious workers; and

WHEREAS, The war has ravaged the economy, and ongoing violence has forced more than a quarter of the population to become refugees, including a million who have fled to the United States; and

WHEREAS, The security forces and military of the Salvadoran government have conducted a well-documented policy of human rights abuses, including disappearances, physical and psychological torture, illegal searches and detentions, and bombings of civilian communities; and

WHEREAS, The Salvadoran people and the Salvadoran churches have called for a negotiated solution to the conflict and its causes and an end to war-related aid which currently flows at a rate of 1.2 million dollars a day from the United States alone;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 123rd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, recognize the suffering of our sisters and brothers in El Salvador and do hereby:

1. Declare December 2, 1990 a day of prayer and fasting for an end to the war in El Salvador, and for observing the 10th Anniversary of the killing of four United States church women in El Salvador: Maura Clark, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford, and Dorothy Kazel; and
2. Affirm the ongoing efforts of the Department of Church in Society of the Connecticut Conference to provide the churches with educational materials and resources about El Salvador; and
3. Call upon the Department of Church in Society of the Connecticut Conference to sponsor or refer people to a delegation of clergy and lay people to visit our sister churches in El Salvador, to provide scholarship assistance for delegation participants, and to help provide opportunities for the delegation to share its experiences upon its return; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the religious community to reassert its prophetic voice of conscience to change United States policy toward El Salvador in the following ways:

1. By calling for an end to military aid to the government of El Salvador; and
2. By calling for a politically negotiated settlement of the war in El Salvador.