

RESOLUTION: ECUMENICAL DECADE 1988-98 CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN

WHEREAS, our tradition teaches us that "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female: for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28); and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ ministered to men and women alike; and

WHEREAS, Many women live under legal systems that do not acknowledge their rights to equal representation, to hold property, or even to make decisions regarding their own children; and

WHEREAS, Hunger, violence, and economic struggles affect women and their children hardest; and

WHEREAS, The World Council of Churches initiated the Ecumenical Decade in January 1987 to provide a framework for actions in solidarity with women oppressed by structures in the global community, and to rejoice in the contributions women continue to make in their faith communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 124th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, declare our support for "Ecumenical Decade 1988-98 Churches in Solidarity with Women," ask all Connecticut Conference members to urge the United State. Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the program departments and the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference to engage in work to improve the status of women in the Church and the world through:

(a) Prayer, worship, education, and action; and

(b) Careful evaluation of the Conference's support of lay and ordained women in its own programming and leadership; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage members of local churches in the Connecticut Conference to celebrate and actively to foster the ministries of women, and ministries with women a. equal partners in the Church and the world.