

1992

RESOLUTION: FOR A STUDY OF REGIONALISM

WHEREAS, We affirm God's covenant with Israel as a fundamental principle of the Christian faith, adhere to the Great Commandment as reiterated by our Savior Jesus Christ, and honor the sharing spirit of the first century Christians (Acts 2:44-47); and

WHEREAS, Connecticut has a historic pride in the separateness of its 169 towns and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Before World War II the major cities in Connecticut were centers of their region's population, income, industry, culture, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, After World War II, a number of factors were causes of the migration from the cities to the suburbs of the more affluent and mobile, such as the mass production of automobiles, the baby boom, federal tax and other monetary incentives for home ownership, the federal highway program; and

WHEREAS, Today, Connecticut cities have some of the highest rates of property taxes paid by some of the state's poorest citizens; and

WHEREAS, Today, Connecticut's cities provide their regions' low-income housing and homeless shelters, provide their regions' trash disposal facilities, attempt to educate with inadequate funds, serve as their regions' transportation hub, and host most of the regions' tax-exempt properties including hospitals, schools, museums, universities, and theaters; and

WHEREAS, Our regional United Church of Christ Associations and Consociation are one model of how independent organizations may work together;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 125th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, ask the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference to appoint a task force which represents equally people from cities and suburban/rural areas:

1) To study (a) regional cooperation in both services and taxes and (b) operational linkages between cities and their suburbs and (c) the prospects of added cooperation and funding by the State of its cities; and

2) To draw up proposals for action consistent with Christian beliefs and with the Connecticut Conference document, "Regional Strategies for Ministry with Connecticut Cities"; and

3) To make its findings available to the churches of the Connecticut Conference; and

4) To report its study, findings, and proposals to the 126th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference.