

1993

RESOLUTION: FREEDOM FROM CONFLICTING SECULAR ACTIVITIES ON THE SABBATH

WHEREAS, We are to "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy", and God tells us "the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God, and you shall not do any work" (Exodus 20:8, 10a); and

WHEREAS, "If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day, ... if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs, then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth" (Isaiah 58:13, 14); and

WHEREAS, The church and the home are the only practical sources of moral teaching, but the time available to ground our children well in the elements of living faith and responsible ethics is significantly limited by the demands of school and work and the desire to participate fully in social activities; and

WHEREAS, School-aged children are often put into a quandary by those administrators, teachers, music leaders, and coaches who schedule conflicting activities on the Sabbath, such that children feel they must choose not to attend worship and religious education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, urge local congregations to join forces with other faith communities in their towns, and encourage their school boards and other organizations to avoid scheduling activities at such times as would require participants to be absent from Sabbath worship or religious education in order to participate in the scheduled event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our local United Church of Christ congregations to encourage their member families to make worship and religious education a priority over other conflicting activities.