

1994

RESOLUTION: FOR THE STUDY OF THE ISSUE OF DECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUGS

WHEREAS, Jesus taught us that children are to be cherished (Mark 9:36-37) and our neighbors are to be loved and served (Matthew 22:39); and that we are to be about healing and mercy (Matthew 5:7), not killing and revenge (Matthew 5:9, 43-46; and

WHEREAS, Children and adults are being killed and lives wasted by drug trade, crime and imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, Imprisonment often does not rehabilitate nor address the fundamental causes and problems of addiction; and

WHEREAS, Both liberal and conservative individuals now question the continuance of our drug prohibition policies, and background material on this subject is becoming available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 127th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, call upon the Department of Church in Society to study the pros and cons of the decriminalization of drugs in combination with increases of treatment and education so that we may find the most effective ways to reduce drug abuse and Its devastation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Church Society suggest and provide resources to our Conference departments and local congregations, urging them to study these alternative policies in appropriate study groups and soliciting the results of their study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Church and Society report back to the 128th Annual Meeting a recommendation for action on these issues involving the reflection and resources of the local churches.