

1995

RESOLUTION: INNOVATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES FOR YOUTH AS ALTERNATIVES TO GANG MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, We are commanded by Jesus to "go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15); and

WHEREAS, The scriptures instruct us to "train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (proverbs 22:6); and

WHEREAS, AS Christian people living in a multi-cultural and multi-racial society, we are ALL responsible for helping our young people become productive and positive parts of the existing community, society, and world in which they live; and

WHEREAS, Through gradual deterioration, our society seems to have crossed an imaginary line and become a violent society; and

WHEREAS, Gangs are not the way of life for our youth but, through Christian conviction, Christ is the answer to a better tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, The scriptures tell us "do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4); and

WHEREAS, The nurture of family bonds, morals, commitment, sharing, loving, and applying biblical instruction to the lives of our young people will make God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus the Son of God become reality to our youth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 128th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, challenge our local churches to link our Christian convictions to actions through awareness of and partnership with other bodies, such as the Hispanic Council of Connecticut UCC, the Minority Empowerment Committee, and the Youth Council, be used to deal with conflict resolution and bring alternatives to gang membership employing the use of evangelism and conflict resolution techniques; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the local churches, the Connecticut Conference Board of Directors, the Associations, as well as national instrumentalities to be part of an overall effort aimed at bringing a peaceful conclusion to the gang epidemic that is affecting our society as a whole and threatening to destroy our youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge all those moved by the Holy Spirit to give faithfully of their time, talent and treasure to the work God has commanded his people to do on behalf of the youth, providing them with alternatives to gangs, drugs and crime so God will be glorified and our youth can proudly become productive members of our society.