

1995

RESOLUTION: TALK SHOW HOSTS WHO ENCOURAGE VIOLENCE AND RACISM

WHEREAS, Jesus' Great Commandment instructs us, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39); and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures are filled with reproach and dire warnings against those who scorn the poor and oppressed (Matthew 25); and

WHEREAS, God rejects bigotry and expressions which reveal hatred in people's hearts toward one another, "Lying lips conceal hatred, and whoever utters slander is a fool. When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but the prudent are restrained in speech." (Proverbs 10:18-19); and

WHEREAS, Paul's letter to the Romans admonishes against a lack of understanding and kindness, (Romans 3:11-12); and

WHEREAS, God, through the prophet Amos, condemns those who lie in order to trample on the poor, (Amos 5:10b-11); and

WHEREAS, Words of hatred and bigotry, if left unchallenged will poison public opinion and lead to deeds of hatred, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly." (Proverbs 15:1-2); and

WHEREAS, Our airways are filled with radio talk show hosts who belittle, vilify and put down immigrants, Hispanics, African-Americans, women and anyone who is different, and these hosts encourage callers who telephone in inciting hatred and bigotry; and

WHEREAS, Those that are vilified are often unable to refute the evil that is being espoused:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 128th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, ask the Board of Directors to communicate with laity and clergy through a pastoral letter expressing the need for us to be more sensitive to those who are subjected to any kind of subordination, especially the prejudices of ageism, racism, sexism and homophobia, and to refer this concern to appropriate departments and committees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pastoral letter will also suggest to our church family creative ways in which we can respond, such as communicating with radio stations, TV and other media and their sponsors stating our intention not to patronize, listen to or subscribe to those stations airing messages of hate and intolerance.