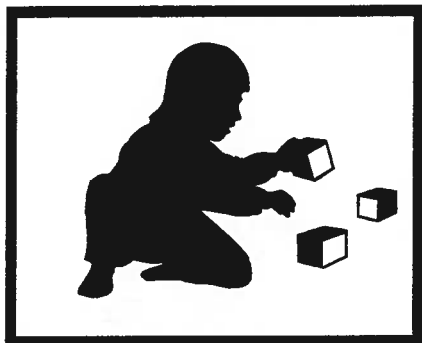


General Synod 20 Resolutions United Church of Christ

Creating a World Safe for Children Free from Violence



***...we are all part of the body of Christ;
when one child suffers all of society
suffers....***

WHEREAS we have Christ's example of how precious children are when "he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me'" (Mark 9:36-37) and we need to affirm this also;

WHEREAS violence is assaulting our children through physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, and through the media;

WHEREAS children are seriously traumatized by violence, whether they are victims, perpetrators, or witnesses;

WHEREAS patterns of violence are likely to produce more violence in future generations;

WHEREAS there are curriculum enhancement programs and resources

which promote and impact the values, ethics and behavior of children and their adult role models in positive ways; and

WHEREAS we are all part of the body of Christ; when one child suffers all of society suffers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ continues to respond to the issues that make this world unfit for children, most particularly those issues related to the occurrence of violence and its effects on the lives of children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Interagency Task Force on Children to coordinate the efforts of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, the Office of Communication, the Coordinating Center for Women and the Commission for Racial Justice (and other ministries that attend to the well-being of children) to develop, evaluate and disseminate resources that will promote and enhance efforts to counter the effects of violence on children through:

(a) Church school curricula for children and adults that emphasize peaceful resolution to conflict and build character and values;

(b) Assistance for parents in counter-ing desensitization to violence caused by exposure to communication media

with violent overtones;

(c) Advocacy challenging media violence;

(d) Support for federal legislation that serves to decrease the occurrence of violence in children's lives;

(e) Advocacy for appropriate programs in the schools that build a child's character and ethics;

(f) Program assistance to churches working locally to encourage the development of alternatives to violence for youths, such as after school programs and employment opportunities; and

(g) Collaboration with other national organizations and agencies which are active in the prevention of violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report on the progress and activities of the Interagency Task Force on Creating a World Safe for Children be given to the General Synod Twenty-One; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod calls upon the Office for Church in Society to facilitate training in nonviolent problem-solving and upon United Church of Christ members to advocate the inclusion of conflict resolution and nonviolent problem-solving in school curricula.

Subject to the availability of funds.