

RESOLVED that the Church Council of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ hereby determines that it is consistent neither with the long history of the churches of our Faith and Order nor with the practice of this particular congregation to instruct delegates, from this congregation to other bodies, as to how they are to vote.

The chief reason why delegates gather in ecclesiastical meetings is to seek the mind of Christ in regard particular issues. Christ communicates his will in many ways. Among them is full discussion, and his own saving presence in the midst of his people. Instructed delegates are effectively barred from full participation in this process of finding the "mind of Christ."

The Church Council does, however, expect the delegate from First Church to use the freedom, both given and expected by the church, responsibly. Where the church has taken a formal stand, such should not only be reported to the meeting, but should also bear heavily upon the delegate in determining how he will vote. When the delegate has a sense of the preponderant view of the congregation, he should be sensitive to it. However, the delegate is finally individually responsible before God for the manner in which he votes.