

1           **A RESOLUTION OF AFFIRMATION REGARDING CITIZENSHIP OF CERTAIN**  
2           **FOREIGN-BORN CHILDREN ADOPTED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS**

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4           Submitted by Church Council of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, Rocky Hill

5           **WHEREAS**, the Bible states, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free,  
6           there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Gal. 3:28; and

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8           **WHEREAS**, the 2019 General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the efforts of  
9           organizations which advocate for US citizenships to be issued to all adoptees, without  
10          loop holes, who are adopted by US citizens and raised in this country; and

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12          **WHEREAS**, many thousands of children were brought to the US to be adopted who never  
13          received their US citizenship because of the failure of adoptive parents, adoption  
14          agencies or adoptive attorneys to take necessary steps; and

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16          **WHEREAS**, these adoptees, both children and adults, because of their lack of American  
17          citizenship, encounter barriers to living successful adult lives in the US -barriers such as  
18          the ability to remain in this country, to vote, to travel freely, to inherit property, to be  
19          employed, to receive worker’s compensation or disability benefits if injured in on job,  
20          and to obtain a passport or driver’s license; and

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22          **WHEREAS**, some, on becoming adults, have been deported to their native countries even  
23          though Americans brought them, as children, to this country to be adopted; and

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25          **WHEREAS**, the federal Child Citizen Act of 2000 provides a partial remedy to this injustice by  
26          granting automatic United States citizenship to some, but not all, foreign-born children  
27          adopted by United States citizens; and

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29          **WHEREAS**, federal law does not cover all individuals adopted by US citizens, specifically it  
30          does not cover US adoptees:

- 31                 • who were older than 18 years old when the Child Citizen Act went into effect.  
32                 • whose adoptions were not completed in their country of birth, but who were  
33                 issued visas for the purpose of completing the adoptions and citizenship in  
34                 America and whose US citizenship process was, for various reasons, not  
35                 completed.  
36                 • who entered the United States on nonimmigrant visas, following adoption by a  
37                 US citizen or in order to be adopted in the United States by a US citizen; and

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39          **WHEREAS**, federal government representatives and adoption agencies did not consistently  
40          provide intended parents with accurate or any pre-and post- adoption assistance and  
41          information to ensure all children adopted internationally by US citizen parents received  
42          their US citizenship; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Adoptee Rights Campaign (ARC) has determined that the problem impacts all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and Armed Forces Families and ARC estimates that:

- the current number of children adopted between 1945 to 1998 who entered adulthood without U.S. citizenship ranges from 25,000 to 49,000 adoptees;
- an additional 7,321-14,643 children adopted from 1999 to 2016 are deemed at-risk of reaching adulthood without U.S. citizenship;
- these figures do not include children brought to the U.S. for adoption on non-immigrant visas and adoptions after 2016;
- the total number of children adopted by U.S. citizens living without the protection of U.S. citizenship will increase to a new estimated total of 32,000 to 64,000 adoptees between 2015 and 2033;
- the number of children brought to Connecticut between the 1999 and 2016 totals 4,623; and an estimated 28.9% are vulnerable due to entrance on certain visas<sup>1</sup>; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we the delegates to the Special Meeting of the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ enter into a dialogue and discussion with each other and our federal legislators about the citizenship rights of all foreign-born individuals adopted by US citizens in their land of origin and to adoptees brought to United States by their intended US citizen adoptive parents to finalize their adoptions here; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we the delegates to the Special Meeting of the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ work with our federal legislators to propose and sponsor legislation in the United States Congress to grant United States citizenship to foreign-born adoptees who were not covered by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adoptee Rights Campaign: US Adoptees Without Citizenship National and Connecticut Estimates. March 2018 (Accessed 5/9/18) <https://adopteerightscampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Connecticut-Final.pdf>

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