

1 **A RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION: ON CONTINUING SUPPORT OF**  
2 **WOMEN AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

3 Submitted by the Connecticut Women of the United Church of Christ; submission  
4 supported by more than fifteen delegates from more than three associations  
5

6 **WHEREAS** we believe that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, that  
7 male and female, God created them and established a partnership of equality  
8 between them (Genesis 1:27-28); and

9 **WHEREAS** scripture tells many stories of women as agents of God's action and grace:  
10 the wisdom of women like Deborah as recorded in the Hebrew scriptures (Judges  
11 4:4-10), the commissioning of women like Mary Magdalene and Salome, to tell  
12 the good news of the resurrection, as recorded in the Gospels (John 20:17 and  
13 Matt 28:9-10), and the leadership of women like Lydia as recorded in the Acts of  
14 the Apostles (Acts 16:13-15); and

15 **WHEREAS** within the United Church of Christ many women are recognized and  
16 celebrated for their gifts of leadership and ministry in the church and society,  
17 including Antoinette Brown first woman pastor; Katherine Haack, first  
18 consecrated Deaconess; Harriet Beecher Stowe, author and abolitionist; Ruth  
19 Dudley, educator; Davida Foy Crabtree, pastor, preacher, conference minister;  
20 and

21 **WHEREAS** previous annual meetings of the Connecticut Conference (1971, 1974, 1977,  
22 1978, 1990, 1991, 1994) affirm the value and dignity of women in the church and  
23 society and call for an end to sexism and the consequences of patriarchy, and  
24 General Synods (1969, 1983, 1989, 1991, 1995) did likewise; and

25 **WHEREAS** current political conversation and legislative action across the country is  
26 leading to the loss of many of the significant advances toward full equality for  
27 women; Texas, by eliminating services provided by Planned Parenthood, has  
28 ended access to cancer screenings and basic health care for over one hundred  
29 thousand poor women; Arizona state representatives have proposed legislation  
30 calling for women with prescription coverage to justify their use of contraceptives  
31 to their employers; and Wisconsin has repealed its equal pay law;  
32

33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we the delegates to the 145<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of  
34 the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ

- 35 1. Reaffirm our belief that societal distinctions which create an inferior-superior  
36 relationship between genders is contrary to the will of God; and
- 37 2. Stand vigilant with and actively support women, and resist the reemerging  
38 cultural forces working to subjugate women; and
- 39 3. Call upon the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference to direct  
40 appropriate conference staff to convey to the national offices of the United  
41 Church of Christ our expectation that when attempts to subjugate women  
42 are attributed to Christian beliefs, the United Church of Christ will  
43 publicly challenge those attributions, proclaim the biblical vision of

44 partnership and equality, and work with other denominations to do the  
45 same; and  
46 4. Call upon our state and federal lobbyists to ensure legislation which assures  
47 women a full range of health care choices and services, including Title X  
48 and Planned Parenthood, and recognizes a woman's right to make  
49 decisions about her own reproductive health.

50  
51 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we call upon the Resolutions Committee and staff  
52 of the Connecticut Conference to prepare and forward this resolution to General  
53 Synod 29 for their consideration and support, in order to recommend this action to  
54 the conferences and members of the entire United Church of Christ, engage the  
55 resources of the national staff in responding to efforts to undermine the status of  
56 women, and recommend this action to sister denominations, ecumenical, and  
57 interfaith partners.  
58