

1 RESOLUTION: **ADVOCATING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN THE**
2 **KOREAN PENINSULA**

3 WHEREAS, Jesus' prayer in John's gospel implores God, "that they all may be one"
4 (John 17:21 NRSV); and

5 WHEREAS, the Psalmist writes, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live
6 together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1); and

7 WHEREAS, Matthew says, "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will
8 receive." (Matthew 21:22); and

9 WHEREAS, Jesus states in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers,"
10 (Matthew 5:9); and

11 WHEREAS, II Corinthians 5:18-19 says, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to
12 himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;
13 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting
14 their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation
15 to us."; and

16 WHEREAS, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ has been in
17 partnership with the Kyung-ki Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of
18 the Republic of Korea since 1994 and the United Church of Christ
19 maintains a partnership with the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of
20 Korea (PROK); and

21 WHEREAS, the Korean people suffered under Japanese occupation for 50 years and
22 the Korean Peninsula was divided at the 38th parallel by the USSR and the
23 United States following the defeat of Japan at the end of World War II and
24 that in the ensuing Cold War environment, the USSR and the US each
25 supported the development of a government and a separate country of the
26 divided peninsula, a division that has continued beyond the truce of the
27 Korean War in 1953; and

28 WHEREAS, many families were divided when some members migrated across the
29 border to escape communism; and

30 WHEREAS, isolation, embargoes, floods and drought have undermined the economy
31 of the North; and

32 WHEREAS, the PROK has maintained work for the reunification of the Korean
33 Peninsula as a justice priority and has requested that we include this
34 concern in our prayers; and

35 WHEREAS, the Kyung-ki Presbytery has adopted a resolution calling for the
36 reunification of Korea;

37 WHEREAS, at the 213th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Korean
38 Presbyterian leaders appealed for peace and reconciliation in their divided
39 country and the General Assembly pledged to join in earnest prayer for
40 peace;

41 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the delegates to the 135th Annual Meeting of
42 the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, call upon the
43 members of the churches, associations and the Conference as a whole to
44 express our solidarity with our partners in Korea, and

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we join with the 213th General Assembly of the
46 Presbyterian Church (USA) in earnest prayer “which seeks the face of
47 God’s wisdom in the hope that God transforms our lives from anger to
48 love, from destruction to construction”; and

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request our national policy advocate to
50 communicate to our policy makers, including our President and Congress,
51 our recommendation that the United States pursue policies that will end
52 tension, decrease armaments and weapons of mass destruction, and seek
53 the peace and security of all the people of Korea; and

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the members of local congregations to
55 contact President Bush and urge a continuation of the basic tenets of the
56 “sunshine policy” practiced by the government of the Republic of Korea,
57 including helping North Korea economically, ending the Cold War legacy,
58 reuniting families, and exchanging special envoys to fulfill the 1991
59 Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-aggression and Exchange and
60 Cooperation between the North and South; and

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge local congregations to study and become
62 familiar with the problems of our partners in the PROK; and

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be recommended to the XXIV
64 General Synod of the United Church of Christ for its consideration.

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66 Presented by the Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington