

1 **AFFIRMATION: EQUAL CIVIL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SAME-**  
2 **SEX COUPLES** Submitted by Social Action and Mission Committee of Immanuel  
3 Congregational Church, Hartford (Vote to be taken by church council on June 23)  
4

5 WHEREAS, over the last three decades delegates to annual meetings of the Connecticut  
6 Conference of the United Church of Christ have established a biblical/theological  
7 rationale to address justice issues related to all people, regardless of sexual  
8 orientation; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, in the 1970's we resolved to work for legislation at state and federal levels  
11 to guarantee civil liberties for all persons, calling on churches and associations to  
12 initiate discussion and study of issues pertaining to homosexuals; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, in the 1980's we resolved to encourage legislation ensuring equal standing  
15 before the law for lesbian, gay and bisexual persons and declared our Conference  
16 to be Open and Affirming; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, in the 1990's we resolved to urge churches in the conference to support  
19 legislation which affirms gay, lesbian, bisexual persons; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, in the year 2002 we resolved that discrimination against any persons based  
22 on sexual orientation is contrary to our understanding of the teachings of Christ;  
23 and  
24

25 WHEREAS, all of the aforementioned resolutions originated in our denomination's  
26 historic commitment to empower the marginalized and liberate the oppressed; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons still do not enjoy equal civil  
29 rights and have a long way to go to gain full equality;  
30

31 THEREFORE BE IT AFFIRMED that we, the delegates to the 136th Annual Meeting of  
32 the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, are called to step  
33 forward in this new decade to reaffirm our support of equal civil rights and  
34 responsibilities for same-sex couples in fully committed, faithful relationships;  
35

36 BE IT FURTHER AFFIRMED that we commit ourselves to work toward expanding the  
37 rights and responsibilities of same-sex couples by actively encouraging churches  
38 and governmental agencies to ensure equal liberty and justice for all;  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER AFFIRMED that we the delegates to the 136th annual meeting of the  
41 Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ recommit ourselves to  
42 address the inequalities that still exist and to further the cause of justice for gay,  
43 lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals and couples in our generation.  
44  
45