

1 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL MARRIAGE FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES  
2 Resolution introduced by: First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, CT and  
3 The First Church in Windsor  
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5 WHEREAS Jesus, throughout his short ministry, emphasized God's compassion for and  
6 inclusion of all humanity (Matt. 20:30-34, Luke 17:11-19 and Gal. 3: 28); and  
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8 WHEREAS Jesus overturned purity laws which maintained cultural walls between Jews  
9 and others around them (Matt. 22:34-40 and 12:9-14); and  
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11 WHEREAS one purity law in Leviticus is often cited in opposition to same-sex  
12 relationships (Lev. 20:13) while other acts equally condemned are ignored, such  
13 as eating creatures of the water that do not have fins and scales or wearing clothes  
14 made of two blended fabrics (Lev. 11:9-12; 19:19); and  
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16 WHEREAS we understand many of Jesus' teachings require the church and society to  
17 welcome people whom others shun; and  
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19 WHEREAS legal marriage, which strengthens the union of committed couples by adding  
20 to their economic, emotional and social stability, is a civil right currently denied  
21 to same-sex couples; and  
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23 WHEREAS a partial precedent has been set by individual congregations within many  
24 religious communities (American Baptists, Buddhists, Episcopalians,  
25 Presbyterians, Reform Jews, the Society of Friends, Unitarian Universalists, and  
26 the United Church of Christ) which already allow "holy unions" or "commitment  
27 services" of same-sex couples even though Connecticut law has yet to recognize  
28 such unions; and  
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30 WHEREAS the principle of separation of church and state assures that no law passed by  
31 the Legislature would require a particular religion or a particular congregation to  
32 perform marriages for same-sex couples;  
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34 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to this 136th Annual Meeting  
35 of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, declare that the  
36 denial of the civil right of marriage of same-sex couples is an unwarranted act of  
37 exclusion; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ask our Conference staff and church leaders to  
40 urge our congregations to prayerfully consider and support legislation to legalize  
41 marriage of same-sex couples; and  
42

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Connecticut Conference staff and public policy  
44 advocate be instructed to communicate this resolution to our representatives in the  
45 state legislature, urging them to adopt marriage of same-sex couples as public  
46 policy for the State of Connecticut.