

1 **A RESOLUTION OF AFFIRMATION DENOUNCING ACTS OF VIOLENCE, HATRED,**
2 **AND RACISM CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF NEO-NAZI AND WHITE**
3 **SUPREMACIST IDEOLOGIES**

4 Submitted by Monroe Congregational Church & Newtown Congregational Church, UCC

5
6 **WHEREAS** scripture offers important teachings such as:

- 7 • God’s call and commandment to love God with all of one’s being (Deut. 6:5),
8 and to love one’s neighbor as one’s self (Matthew 22:37-40)
- 9 • God’s call through the prophets to “act justly and love mercy” (Micah 6:8)
- 10 • God’s call through Jesus “to do unto others . . .” (Matthew 7:12), to see the despised and
11 oppressed as children of God, as in the story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman
12 (John 4:4-30), and in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
- 13 • God’s vision of the church as a people “drawn from every nation, all tribes, peoples, and
14 languages” (Revelations 7:9); and

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16 **WHEREAS** the church has understood itself to be called by God to speak and act on behalf of the
17 outcast and oppressed in many times and cultures; and

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19 **WHEREAS** since 2016, we have witnessed significant increases in the incidents of hate speech,
20 hate crimes, assault, and harassment, directed at many minority peoples including
21 immigrants, Native Americans, Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ people and more; and

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23 **WHEREAS** we recognize that all persons have a constitutional right to free speech, nonetheless the
24 open display of Nazi and white supremacist regalia (swastika and Confederate flags), the
25 overt hateful and racist behavior in the white nationalist “Unite the Right” demonstration
26 (Charlottesville VA, Aug. 12th, 2017), and the increasingly frequent expression of hateful,
27 extremist views in many forms of media is both profoundly disturbing to us and
28 diametrically opposed to our mandate from God; and

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30 **WHEREAS** on September 12th, 2017, both Houses of the United States Congress unanimously
31 passed a joint resolution condemning white nationalists, white supremacists, the Ku Klux
32 Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups.

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34 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the delegates to the 151st Annual Meeting of the
35 Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, denounce all forms and expressions
36 of white supremacist hatred as displayed by neo-Nazi groups, the Ku Klux Klan, and others;
37 and

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we stand in solidarity with those who are so often the targets
40 of such hate speech and actions; and

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42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we encourage United Church of Christ congregations to join
43 with other communities of faith to proclaim our shared commitment to Racial Justice; and

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45 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution, if affirmed, be put into proper format for
46 submission to the 2019 General Synod of the United Church of Christ.