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

Submitted by Monroe Congregational Church & Newtown Congregational Church, UCC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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