A RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION: ON CONTINUING SUPPORT OF WOMEN AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Submitted by the Connecticut Women of the United Church of Christ; submission supported by more than fifteen delegates from more than three associations

WHEREAS we believe that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, that male and female, God created them and established a partnership of equality between them (Genesis 1:27-28); and

WHEREAS scripture tells many stories of women as agents of God’s action and grace: the wisdom of women like Deborah as recorded in the Hebrew scriptures (Judges 4:4-10), the commissioning of women like Mary Magdalene and Salome, to tell the good news of the resurrection, as recorded in the Gospels (John 20:17 and Matt 28:9-10), and the leadership of women like Lydia as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 16:13-15); and

WHEREAS within the United Church of Christ many women are recognized and celebrated for their gifts of leadership and ministry in the church and society, including Antoinette Brown first woman pastor; Katherine Haack, first consecrated Deaconess; Harriet Beecher Stowe, author and abolitionist; Ruth Dudley, educator; Davida Foy Crabtree, pastor, preacher, conference minister; and


WHEREAS current political conversation and legislative action across the country is leading to the loss of many of the significant advances toward full equality for women; Texas, by eliminating services provided by Planned Parenthood, has ended access to cancer screenings and basic health care for over one hundred thousand poor women; Arizona state representatives have proposed legislation calling for women with prescription coverage to justify their use of contraceptives to their employers; and Wisconsin has repealed its equal pay law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 145th annual meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ

1. Reaffirm our belief that societal distinctions which create an inferior-superior relationship between genders is contrary to the will of God; and
2. Stand vigilant with and actively support women, and resist the reemerging cultural forces working to subjugate women; and
3. Call upon the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference to direct appropriate conference staff to convey to the national offices of the United Church of Christ our expectation that when attempts to subjugate women are attributed to Christian beliefs, the United Church of Christ will publicly challenge those attributions, proclaim the biblical vision of
partnership and equality, and work with other denominations to do the
same; and
4. Call upon our state and federal lobbyists to ensure legislation which assures
women a full range of health care choices and services, including Title X
and Planned Parenthood, and recognizes a woman’s right to make
decisions about her own reproductive health.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we call upon the Resolutions Committee and staff
of the Connecticut Conference to prepare and forward this resolution to General
Synod 29 for their consideration and support, in order to recommend this action to
the conferences and members of the entire United Church of Christ, engage the
resources of the national staff in responding to efforts to undermine the status of
women, and recommend this action to sister denominations, ecumenical, and
interfaith partners.