RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION: FOR THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE
TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION REQUIRING ALL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED
FOODS TO BE LABELED ON FOOD PACKAGING
Submitted by the Environmental Ministry Team of the Connecticut Conference of the United
Church of Christ.

Whereas, “Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit
trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. The earth
brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind
bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good,” (Genesis 1:11-12); and
“The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens
and tenants. Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of
the land,” (Leviticus 25:23-24); and

Whereas, the tapestry of God’s creation is woven with the beauty of extravagant diversity; from
bacteria to begonias to our own lives, the diverse interconnected fabric of life calls forth
our awe and wonder; and

Whereas, reflecting on this diversity and the continuing presence of God’s grace in our lives,
members of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ need to be
concerned about the threats to bio- and agricultural diversity posed by current activities in
 genetic engineering of plants and animals and

Whereas, These technologies are emerging within the context of a history of the overuse of land,
the homogenization of agriculture, and the brutal exploitation of nonhuman animal life in
search of ever higher profits; and,

Whereas, the technologies allowing genetic modifications of plants, animals and microbes now
allow manipulation of life at a basic level may offer benefits for humankind, but they
may also speed the destruction of God’s creation; and

Whereas, Genetically Engineered Foods (GE foods) are products that have been genetically
modified at the cellular level, combining DNA molecules from different species to create
a new set of genes, including the creation of transgenic plants, fish, or animals, which
contain material from at least one unrelated organism, such as a virus, insect, animal, or
even a human being; and

Whereas, humankind’s attempt to patent and claim total ownership of life and all of life’s
offspring should be understood as extreme hubris, antithetical to God’s purposes, and an
affront to God and creation; and

Whereas, even as the moral and ethical implications of GE foods are profound, they continue to
be largely unexamined, even as more and more GE foods are being created; and

Whereas, genetically engineered plants now encompass economically important and widely
planted human and animal food crops, including corn, soybeans, sugar beets, cotton, rice,
canola, to name just a few, with some of these genetically modified crops representing up to 80 percent of total production in their categories; and

**Whereas**, as fewer farmers plant non-modified seeds, the diversity of our world’s seed stocks is diminished, undermining the earth’s bio-diversity and the endangering environmental resilience; and

**Whereas**, long term health effects of ingesting genetically engineered foods in human beings are largely unknown, because GE food seed companies decline use of their seeds to independent researchers; and

**Whereas**, individuals in Connecticut and the United States have a right to know if their food was produced with genetic engineering for a variety of reasons, including health, economic, environmental, religious, and ethical; and

**Whereas**, more than 60 countries, including all 27 member states of the European Union, as well as South Korea, Japan, Brazil, Australia, India, China, and other key United States trading partners have laws or regulations mandating disclosure of genetically engineered food on food labels; and

**Whereas**, government legislation to require labeling of genetically modified foods has already been introduced in more than 25 states and the Congress of the United States; and

**Whereas**, as a result of a Resolution of Affirmation related to genetically modified foods passed at the 145th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, congregations were called upon to study the issue of GE foods and over the past year; and

**Whereas**, the Environmental Ministry Team of the Connecticut Conference has provided educational resources related to GE foods and GE food labeling for our congregations by making books and DVDs on the subject available in our conference library, screening films on GE food in churches and libraries, sponsoring panel discussions on GE foods, and notifying congregations of such events in their areas;

Therefore, **be it resolved** that we the delegates to the 146th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ call upon members of our congregations to advocate, with Connecticut legislators and members of Congress for legislation requiring mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods; and

Therefore, **be it resolved** that the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ sponsor a resolution advocating labeling of genetically modified foods for presentation at General Synod 30, if national government genetically modified food labeling legislation has not yet been enacted.