

1 **RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION: FOR THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE**  
2 **TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION REQUIRING ALL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED**  
3 **FOODS TO BE LABELED ON FOOD PACKAGING**

4 Submitted by the Environmental Ministry Team of the Connecticut Conference of the United  
5 Church of Christ.  
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7 **Whereas**, “Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit  
8 trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. The earth  
9 brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind  
10 bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good,” (*Genesis 1:11-12*); and  
11 “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens  
12 and tenants. Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of  
13 the land,” (*Leviticus 25:23-24*); and  
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15 **Whereas**, the tapestry of God’s creation is woven with the beauty of extravagant diversity; from  
16 bacteria to begonias to our own lives, the diverse interconnected fabric of life calls forth  
17 our awe and wonder; and  
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19 **Whereas**, reflecting on this diversity and the continuing presence of God’s grace in our lives,  
20 members of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ need to be  
21 concerned about the threats to bio- and agricultural diversity posed by current activities in  
22 genetic engineering of plants and animals and  
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24 **Whereas**, These technologies are emerging within the context of a history of the overuse of land,  
25 the homogenization of agriculture, and the brutal exploitation of nonhuman animal life in  
26 search of ever higher profits; and,  
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28 **Whereas**, the technologies allowing genetic modifications of plants, animals and microbes now  
29 allow manipulation of life at a basic level may offer benefits for humankind, but they  
30 may also speed the destruction of God’s creation; and  
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32 **Whereas**, Genetically Engineered Foods (GE foods) are products that have been genetically  
33 modified at the cellular level, combining DNA molecules from different species to create  
34 a new set of genes, including the creation of transgenic plants, fish, or animals, which  
35 contain material from at least one unrelated organism, such as a virus, insect, animal, or  
36 even a human being; and  
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38 **Whereas**, humankind’s attempt to patent and claim total ownership of life and all of life’s  
39 offspring should be understood as extreme hubris, antithetical to God’s purposes, and an  
40 affront to God and creation; and  
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42 **Whereas**, even as the moral and ethical implications of GE foods are profound, they continue to  
43 be largely unexamined, even as more and more GE foods are being created; and  
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45 **Whereas**, genetically engineered plants now encompass economically important and widely  
46 planted human and animal food crops, including corn, soybeans, sugar beets, cotton, rice,

47           canola, to name just a few, with some of these genetically modified crops representing up  
48           to 80 percent of total production in their categories; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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