RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO
INCLUSION OF ALL PERSONS
Submitted by Immanuel Congregational Church, Hartford, United Church on the Green,
New Haven, The UCC in Cornwall, Cornwall

WHEREAS, the Bible repeatedly affirms of the goodness of creation and the love of God for all people, as in Genesis 1, Psalm 139, John 1: 1-5, and Acts 10: 34-43; and

WHEREAS, Galatians 3: 26-29 calls on those who are baptized to put on Christ like a garment and to look past human divisions to become one person in Christ; and

WHEREAS, transgender and intersexual people are currently offering valuable ministry within the United Church of Christ, both as lay people and as clergy; and

WHEREAS, our understanding of sexual orientation, gender biology, gender identity, and gender expression continues to grow, as does our awareness of ways in which equality and full inclusion in society and in the church are often denied to transgender and intersexual people on the basis of perceived differences related to gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 1985 encouraged a policy of inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual persons in all settings of the church, and in 1989 the Connecticut Conference UCC declared itself open to and affirming of lesbian, gay and bisexual persons; and

WHEREAS in 2003 the General Synod of the United Church of Christ expanded the Open and Affirming Policy to include people of other gender identity and gender expressions; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 146th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, reaffirm our commitment to welcoming and including all people in all roles and activities of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Board of Directors to revise the Covenant of Openness and Affirmation and the non-discrimination policy of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ so as to include people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our member congregations to adopt a non-discrimination policy and a covenant of openness and affirmation toward all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.