RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION IN SUPPORT OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION
Submitted by The Public Education Advocacy Team

WHEREAS, The Hebrew Scriptures tell us “Children are the heritage of God, (Psalm 127: 3a, NIV) and “Start children off on the way they should and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6, NIV); and

WHEREAS, In the Gospel of John he recounts what Jesus says to the Pharisees “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10b, NIV); and

WHEREAS, “Preschool is one of the smartest and most critical investments we can make. By getting our children off to a strong start, we not only increase their individual chances for lifelong success, but also ensure our entire nation is on the path to a strong future.” ~ Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education ~ April, 2013; and

WHEREAS, “Studies prove that children who have rich early learning experiences are better prepared to thrive in school. Yet the United States ranks 28th in the world for the enrollment of 4-year-olds in early learning, and 25th in public investment in preschool. Only 3 in 10 children attend a quality preschool program. Doing better is more than just a moral and educational imperative; it’s smart government: a public dollar spent on high-quality preschool returns $7 through increased productivity and savings on public assistance and criminal justice. From a growing number of voices, including from the recently concluded work of the Equity and Excellence Commission, the call has been clear to expand quality early learning in the United States.” ~ ED.gov Blog April 11, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Connecticut Conference has consistently advocated for high-quality integrated education, with resolutions adopted as far back, in recent history, starting in 1972; and

WHEREAS, All children in Connecticut (CT) have the right to a high quality education from prekindergarten through high school; and

WHEREAS, The right to high quality education for the children of Connecticut is a justice issue; and

WHEREAS, Parents of all children should be supported in fostering a love for learning in their children as an extension of their natural curiosity; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 146th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ urge the CT State Department of
Education (CTDOE) to implement the preschool education legislation, which was passed in May 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 146th Annual Meeting the Connecticut Conference urge the CTDOE to strongly encourage local school districts to establish school-community collaboratives to promote outreach to parents of young children to ensure that the children are exposed to school readiness skills and experiences before they enter kindergarten; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 146th Annual Meeting the Connecticut Conference urges the CT DOE to strongly recommend prompt implementation of P.A.11-181, Section (b) “The coordinated system of early care and education and child development … with emphasis on subsection: (6)(7)(9)” which addresses the creation of a multi-service agency to prepare preschool children for kindergarten.