

1 **A RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE RIGHT OF ALL ADULT ADOPTEES**
2 **TO ACCESS THEIR ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES**
3 **AND TRUE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ORIGINS**
4

5 Submitted by Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
6 For more information on this issue please visit <http://rhccucc.org/adoptee>
7

8 **WHEREAS** justice, compassion and care are at the very heart of the life and ministry of Jesus, extended
9 to all without distinction; and
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11 **WHEREAS** our Biblical tradition reflects this inclusiveness through the voice of the Apostle Paul:
12 *“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or*
13 *female; for all of you are one in Jesus Christ”* (Galatians 3:28, NRSV); and
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15 **WHEREAS** national and conference settings of the United Church of Christ have addressed situations
16 and structures of exclusion and injustice, encouraging equal justice, equal civil rights, and equal
17 standing before the law for all people, as a matter of moral witness; and
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19 **WHEREAS** in the state of Connecticut, adult adoptees who were adopted before October 1, 1983, do
20 not have legal access to their original birth certificates and are therefore denied from gaining true
21 and accurate information about their biological origins; and
22

23 **WHEREAS** all non-adopted adult citizens of Connecticut have the right to receive a copy of their
24 original birth certificate, and (as of July 1, 2015) this right has been restored to adult adoptees
25 who were adopted on or after October 1, 1983; and
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27 **WHEREAS** adoptees unable to access their original birth certificates may be unable to gain fuller
28 knowledge of their ancestry and ethnicity, denying them a basic part of their human story and
29 identity; and
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31 **WHEREAS** adoptees unable to access their original birth certificates may be unable to gain fuller
32 knowledge of their medical histories and genetic information in order to make decisions about
33 their health care throughout their lives, including care needed to save their lives; and
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35 **WHEREAS** we affirm that providing for the physical, psychological, and emotional welfare of all
36 persons, adoptees and non-adoptees without distinction, is the moral obligation of a just and
37 compassionate society; and
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39 **WHEREAS** the law currently makes distinction in rights between adopted and non-adopted persons as
40 regards access to original birth information, therefore adoptees are not treated equally under the
41 law;
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43 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the delegates of the 148th Annual Meeting of the
44 Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, call upon the congregations of the
45 Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Board of Directors of the
46 Connecticut Conference, and the staff of the Connecticut Conference to explore, collaborate and
47 cooperate in every way possible with the many and various interfaith efforts in Connecticut to
48 persuade Connecticut legislators to pass legislation ensuring restoration of the right of all
49 adoptees to access information about their origins; and
50

51 **BE IT FURTHR RESOLVED** that we, the delegates to the 148th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut
52 Conference of the United Church of Christ in Connecticut do hereby resolve and urge that the
53 Legislative and Executive branches of the Connecticut and United States governments, through
54 their agencies and commissions, shall grant to all adult adoptees access to their original birth
55 certificates; and

56
57 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** that this resolution, if affirmed, be put into proper form for submission
58 to General Synod.