

1 RESOLUTION OF AFFIRMATION: FOR THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF THE  
2 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO BECOME AN “ACCESSIBLE TO ALL” CONFERENCE  
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4 Submitted by South Congregational Church of Middletown, CT and the Disabilities Ministries  
5 Team of the Connecticut Conference  
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7 WHEREAS Jesus tells us, in Luke 14:12-14 – the Parable of the Great Banquet – that people  
8 with disabilities and the poor would feast in the kingdom of God “When you give a  
9 luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich  
10 neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you  
11 give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. And you will be  
12 blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the  
13 righteous”; and  
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15 WHEREAS we read in Isaiah 60:11, “The Lord says that our gates shall be open; day and night,  
16 they shall not be shut”; and  
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18 WHEREAS The United States Census Bureau records show that 19 percent of respondents  
19 report having a disability and an increasing senior population will experience difficulties  
20 with mobility, vision and hearing; and  
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22 WHEREAS a study conducted by the National Organization on Disability and the Kessler  
23 Foundation found that people with disabilities are 35 percent more likely to never attend  
24 a worship service than their non-disabled peers; and  
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26 WHEREAS God calls us to open the doors to our churches to all people with disabilities, and to  
27 embrace them in the entirety of their being; and  
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29 WHEREAS in 2005, the 25th General Synod adopted the resolution “Called to Wholeness in  
30 Christ: Becoming a Church Accessible to All”; and  
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32 WHEREAS in 2012 and 2013, respectively, the North California, Nevada and the Rocky  
33 Mountain Conferences adopted resolutions to become Accessible to All; and  
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35 WHEREAS in 2008 the Disabilities Ministries Team of the Connecticut Conference was formed  
36 to be an educational resource to the churches of the Conference, to inform and assist them  
37 to become more accessible and inclusive;  
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39 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the the delegates to 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
40 Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, declare the Connecticut  
41 Conference to be an Accessible to All Conference, working to remove and/or overcome  
42 barriers to welcoming, and including all people in the work and witness of the United  
43 Church of Christ, including our Conference facilities and ministries; and  
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45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, call upon the  
46 churches of the Conference to diligently assess their facilities and ministries and work to  
47 remove and/or overcome barriers to welcoming and including all people in their work

48 and ministries; and

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50 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
51 Connecticut Conference, welcomes and calls upon the Disabilities Ministries Team to  
52 continue to serve as a liaison between the Connecticut Conference and the UCC  
53 Disabilities Ministries Board, to continue their ministries of presence at Conference  
54 gatherings, their offerings of resources and their advocacy, through preaching and  
55 teaching, to encourage our churches to become “Accessible to All.”