RESOLUTION OF AFFIRMATION: FOR THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO BECOME AN “ACCESSIBLE TO ALL” CONFERENCE

Submitted by South Congregational Church of Middletown, CT and the Disabilities Ministries
Team of the Connecticut Conference

with disabilities and the poor would feast in the kingdom of God “When you give a
luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich
neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you
give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. And you will be
blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the
righteous”; and

WHEREAS we read in Isaiah 60:11, “The Lord says that our gates shall be open; day and night,
they shall not be shut”; and

WHEREAS The United States Census Bureau records show that 19 percent of respondents
report having a disability and an increasing senior population will experience difficulties
with mobility, vision and hearing; and

WHEREAS a study conducted by the National Organization on Disability and the Kessler
Foundation found that people with disabilities are 35 percent more likely to never attend
a worship service than their non-disabled peers; and

WHEREAS God calls us to open the doors to our churches to all people with disabilities, and to
embrace them in the entirety of their being; and

WHEREAS in 2005, the 25th General Synod adopted the resolution “Called to Wholeness in
Christ: Becoming a Church Accessible to All”; and

WHEREAS in 2012 and 2013, respectively, the North California, Nevada and the Rocky
Mountain Conferences adopted resolutions to become Accessible to All; and

WHEREAS in 2008 the Disabilities Ministries Team of the Connecticut Conference was formed
to be an educational resource to the churches of the Conference, to inform and assist them
to become more accessible and inclusive;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the the delegates to 150th Annual Meeting of the
Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, declare the Connecticut
Conference to be an Accessible to All Conference, working to remove and/or overcome
barriers to welcoming, and including all people in the work and witness of the United
Church of Christ, including our Conference facilities and ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 150th Annual Meeting, call upon the
churches of the Conference to diligently assess their facilities and ministries and work to
remove and/or overcome barriers to welcoming and including all people in their work
and ministries; and

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