

1 RESOLUTION: **THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE, UCC, OUR CHURCHES**
2 **AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF**
3 **AMERICA**
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5 WHEREAS, In the gospel, Jesus declares "...I was a stranger and you welcomed
6 me... Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of those who are
7 members of my family, you did it to me"; and as part of the Great
8 Commandment, Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves
9 (Matthew 25:35-40 and Matthew 22:39-NRSV); and

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11 WHEREAS, Paul wrote "the body is one and has many members, and all the members
12 of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... Now you
13 are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (I Corinthians
14 12:12 and 27); and

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16 WHEREAS, The fifteenth General Synod (1985) of the United Church of Christ
17 encouraged "a policy of non-discrimination in employment, volunteer
18 service and membership policies with regard to sexual orientation; and
19 encouraged associations, conferences and all related organizations to
20 adopt a similar policy as well as a Covenant of Openness and Affirmation
21 of persons of lesbian, gay and bisexual orientation within the community
22 of faith"; and

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24 WHEREAS, In 1989, the 122nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the
25 United Church of Christ declared the Conference to be Open and
26 Affirming and "called upon member congregations to adopt a similar non-
27 discrimination policy and covenant of openness and affirmation"; and

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29 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has recently (June 2000) upheld the right
30 of the Boy Scouts of America to set membership criteria; thus effectively
31 allowing them to exclude homosexuals as members or leaders; as
32 professional or nonprofessional employees; and

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34 WHEREAS, discrimination against anyone based upon sexual orientation is seen by
35 many churches as a justice and human rights issue, rooted in our
36 understanding of God's inclusive love and care for all persons and all
37 creation;

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39 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 135th Annual Meeting of
40 the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, request the
41 Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of
42 Christ to convey to the National Council of Boy Scouts of America our
43 belief that discrimination against anyone based upon sexual orientation is
44 contrary to our understanding of the teachings of Christ;

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46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request our Board of Directors to ask the
47 National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to enact a membership
48 policy, which bases exclusion on sexual misconduct rather than sexual
49 orientation.

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51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite all congregations that sponsor Boy Scout
52 troops to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider the implications of such
53 sponsorship.

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57 Presented by First Congregational Church of Guilford, Inc.