

RESOLUTION: OF AFFIRMATION TO EXPLORE BECOMING A GLOBAL MISSION
CONFERENCE IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Submitted by the Wider Church Ministry Team of the Connecticut Conference, First Church of Christ, Simsbury and First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

WHEREAS, Jesus commands, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39)" and even to "love your enemies (Luke 6:35)," and

WHEREAS, Jesus tells his disciples, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40);

WHEREAS, Jesus' prayer in John's gospel implores God, "that they all may be one" (John 17:21 NRSV); and

WHEREAS, the Psalmist writes, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1); and

WHEREAS, on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) peoples of every nation on earth were present and the Holy Spirit filled them and they had understanding of one another, testifying to God's power; and

WHEREAS, we are entrusted with the "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18) and are called to be "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20); and

WHEREAS, Jesus states in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God," (Matthew 5:9); and

WHEREAS, the 27th General Synod of the UCC in June, 2009 declared itself to be a Global Missions Church and invited all settings of the church to claim the identity of a Global Missions Church; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut has a long history of missions beginning in 1798 when the forerunner of the Connecticut Conference, the Missionary Society of Connecticut, embarked on a mission to start new churches and founded 400 churches in Vermont, New York and Ohio; and in 1810 clergy from Connecticut and Massachusetts founded the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) for the purpose of promoting the spread of the gospel, here and abroad; and

WHEREAS, churches in Connecticut are planning to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of ABCFM in the fall of 2010

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Conference has been in partnership with the Kyung-ki Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea since 1994 and the United Church of Christ maintains a partnership with the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK); and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Conference and the Mennonite Church of Colombia have a partnership relationship and a substantial majority of Connecticut UCC churches engage in international missions in a variety of settings; and

WHEREAS, the churches of the Connecticut Conference have generously supported Our Churches Wider Mission and One Great Hour of Sharing helping to support the Global Ministries critical presence priority, in which over 150 persons in mission are currently serving as missionaries, volunteers, interns and associates in 50 countries; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Conference through the national setting of the United Church of Christ covenants with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in a common effort with various ecumenical initiatives in the United States and Canada and others throughout the world including the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and the World Council of Churches, together we continue to seek ways to respond to all God's people who are in need of wholeness and transformation, thereby calling us to renew our commitment to God's mission of reconciliation and unity which is both local and global; and

WHEREAS, a local church engaged in ministry globally is a vital and faithful church, one that is dynamic and growing in strong local and global relationships, bringing abundant blessings, creating understanding and building communities of justice and service; and

WHEREAS, Global Ministries, a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, seek to facilitate the engagement of local churches and other settings of the church more intentionally in global mission; and

WHEREAS, God's call to mission is already embodied and celebrated in all settings of the church in myriad expressions of relationship, service, mission presence, justice witness, worship and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, partnership means receiving the gifts and learning from the experiences of others in our world, building greater effectiveness through collective efforts and mutually recognizing and encouraging each other in ministry;

WHEREAS, people around the world are all children of God and the body of Christ is a global body, the formation of friendships across cultures through mission activities helps to build up the global body and the conditions for peaceful relations among all nations;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the 143rd Fall Annual Meeting, October 22 & 23, 2010, promotes and encourages all settings of the church to explore and discern the Global Mission Church designation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 143rd Fall Annual Meeting invites all settings of the Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ—Associations and local churches, and all age groups of the church, especially youth and young adults, to avail themselves of educational resources from Global Ministries, such as *Be a Global Mission Church*; and the Wider Church Ministry Team's Ministry and Mission Interpreters program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that one year hence at the 144th Fall Annual Meeting, a resolution of implementation be proposed and considered declaring the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ a "Global Mission Conference."