

97 GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution ADeclaration of Intention to Work Toward Partnership Between the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ.®

RESOLUTION ADECLARATION OF INTENTION TO WORK TOWARD PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.®

WHEREAS, God calls the Church to find ways to give visible expression to the unity of Christ's Church in response to the prayer "that they may all be one;" and

WHEREAS, there has been a growing relationship between members of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ, both in the Pacific and in North America; and

WHEREAS, following the Second World War many members of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa left American Samoa to live in Hawaii and North America, and established local churches relating to both the United Church of Christ and the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa; and

WHEREAS, since 1984 the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa has expressed its desire to be in closer relationship to the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, both churches are members of the World Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS, leaders of both churches, meeting in Hawaii in May of 1996 declared their commitment to "work together to develop a relationship as mutual partners in God's mission;" and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa adopted a resolution in July, 1996, approving a relationship with the United Church of Christ as mutual partners in God's mission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ gratefully receives the action of the General Assembly of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ declares its intention to work toward partnership with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in this process we will, together with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the Samoa Congregations in the United Church of Christ,

- seek to share resources for ministry,
- work toward the recognition of each other's ministries and respect for each other's traditions,
- learn from each other about our cultures, our ways of being church, and how we view the Eternal,
- identify what we need from each other so that our churches will be both giving and receiving churches,
- work so that the whole church will be built up, the mission of God will be done and the vision of a world of justice and peace will become a reality; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church Board for World Ministries, in consultation with the Office of the President, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and the Office for Church Life and Leadership, be requested to provide administrative support for implementing this process.

Subject to the availability of funds.