

16 05-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Resolution in Support of Equal
17 Marriage Rights for All for General Synod 25 of the United Church of Christ.”
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19 **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL MARRIAGE RIGHTS FOR ALL FOR GENERAL SYNOD 25**
20 **OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

21
22 WHEREAS the Bible affirms and celebrates human expressions of love and partnership, calling us to live out fully
23 that gift of God in responsible, faithful, committed relationships that recognize and respect the image of God in all
24 people; and
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26 WHEREAS the life and example of Jesus of Nazareth provides a model of radically inclusive love and abundant
27 welcome for all; and
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29 WHEREAS we proclaim ourselves to be listening to the voice of a Still Speaking God at that at all times in human
30 history there is always yet more light and truth to break forth from God’s holy word; and
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32 WHEREAS many UCC pastors and congregations have held commitment services for gay and lesbian couples for
33 some time, consistent with the call to loving, long-term committed relationships and to nurture family life; and
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35 WHEREAS recognition of marriage carries with it significant access to institutional support, rights and benefits; and
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37 WHEREAS children of families headed by same-gender couples should receive all legal rights and protections; and
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39 WHEREAS legislation to ban recognition of same-gender marriages further undermine the civil liberties of gay and
40 lesbian couples and contributes to a climate of misunderstanding and polarization, increasing hostility against gays
41 and lesbians; and
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43 WHEREAS a Constitutional Amendment has been introduced to this Congress to limit marriage to “only the union
44 of a man and a woman”; and
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46 WHEREAS equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender is an issue deserving of serious, faithful
47 discussion by people of faith, taking into consideration the long, complex history of marriage and family life,
48 layered as it is with cultural practices, economic realities, political dynamics, religious history and biblical
49 interpretation; and
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51 WHEREAS the Tenth General Synod pronounced that all person are entitled to full civil liberties and equal
52 protection under the law without discrimination related to sexual preference; and
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1 WHEREAS the Eleventh General Synod urged that States should legislatively recognize that traditional marriage is
2 not the only stable living unit entitled to legal protection; and
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4 WHEREAS the Nineteenth General Synod called on the church for greater leadership to end discrimination against
5 gays and lesbians; and
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7 WHEREAS the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in April, 2004 called the church to action and
8 dialogue on marriage;
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10 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms
11 equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender and declares that the government should not interfere with
12 couples regardless of gender who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and
13 commitment of legally recognized marriage; and
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15 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms
16 equal access to the basic rights, institutional protections and quality of life conferred by the recognition of marriage;
17 and

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19 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls for an end to rhetoric that fuels
20 hostility, misunderstanding, fear and hatred expressed toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons; and

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22 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers of the United Church of Christ are called upon to
23 communicate this resolution to local, state and national legislators, urging them to support equal marriage rights for
24 couples regardless of gender.

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26 In recognition that these resolutions may not reflect the views or current understanding of all bodies, and
27 acknowledging the pain and struggle their passage will engender within the gathered church, the General Synod
28 encourages the following:

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30 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty -fifth General Synod calls upon all settings of the United
31 Church of Christ to engage in serious, respectful, and prayerful discussion of the covenantal relationship of marriage
32 and equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender, using the “God is still speaking, about Marriage” study
33 and discussion guide produced by Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ (available online at
34 UCC.org); and

35
36 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon congregations, after prayerful
37 biblical, theological, and historical study, to consider adopting Wedding Policies that do not discriminate against
38 couples based on gender; and

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40 LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod urges the congregations and individuals
41 of the United Church of Christ to prayerfully consider and support local, state and national legislation to grant equal
42 marriage rights to couples regardless of gender, and to work against legislation, including constitutional
43 amendments, which denies civil marriage rights to couples based on gender.

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45 Funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
46 affected agencies and the funds available.