

1 REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS

2 *(Prudential Resolution)*

3 **RESOLUTION**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, 2007 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Church of
6 Christ, and

7 **WHEREAS**, the occasion of the founding of the United Church of Christ was preceded
8 with extensive discussions, prayer, scholarship, research, and negotiations to establish a
9 common vision for this new venture in Christianity, and

10 **WHEREAS** our forebears came to an agreement known as The Basis of Union with
11 Interpretations and summarized the faith of our denomination in the Statement of Faith,
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, Jesus prayed in John 17:21 “that they may all be one” and these words have
14 been the official motto of the United Church of Christ, and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Twenty-fifth General Synod reaffirmed that Jesus Christ is Lord and
16 Savior and the representation of that central faith tenet by our symbol, and

17 **WHEREAS**, it is our desire that the United Church of Christ continue to reflect
18 theological diversity that includes members and churches who consider themselves to be
19 evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional (ECOT) as well as centrist,
20 progressive, and liberal,

21 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twenty-sixth General Synod, meeting in
22 Hartford, Connecticut, reaffirms the Basis of Union with Interpretations and the Preamble
23 to the United Church of Christ constitution as ongoing valued and cherished testimonies
24 of faith that guide our common life and identity in the United Church of Christ, and under
25 the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit, and commends these documents for review,
26 reflection, and study at all levels of the church.

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon all
28 settings of the church to consider prayerfully its policies and statements in terms of their
29 impact on the unity and future of local churches, associations, and conferences in the
30 UCC.

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-sixth General Synod recognizes and
32 affirms the efforts of those among us who are encouraging all members and all churches
33 to remain in the United Church of Christ and to increase covenantal partnerships through
34 giving to the wider church, by sharing joys and concerns, and by participating in every
35 aspect of denominational life.

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-sixth General Synod acknowledges the
37 existence of a broad spectrum of thought on contemporary issues of theology and ethics,

38 and advocates fair representation of all points of view in all settings of the United Church
39 of Christ.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Sixth General Synod urges Association,
41 Conference and General Synod meetings to welcome speakers, displays and educational
42 opportunities that exemplify an openness to the wide range of ministries and theological
43 diversity in our churches.

44

45 **FUNDING**

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47 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the
48 overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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50 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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52 All settings of the United Church of Christ are requested to be the primary implementers
53 of this resolution.