

Resolution on Becoming a Multiracial and Multicultural Conference

WHEREAS in Genesis 1:27 we are called to recognize the oneness of all of humanity, created equally in the image of God, and

WHEREAS God's gift of humanity in Creation is full of the richness of unity and diversity, and

WHEREAS in John 17:21 are the words adopted by The United Church of Christ in its symbol "that they may all be one," and

WHEREAS the racial and ethnic makeup of Vermont is changing, and its communities are becoming increasingly diverse, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ in its 19th General Synod in 1993 issued a pronouncement calling the United Church of Christ to be a multiracial and multicultural church, and

WHEREAS the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ has repeatedly supported actions and resolution calling upon its churches to become more racially and culturally inclusive, including:

A resolution passed at the 1996 Conference Annual Meeting regarding the indigenous people of Vermont, calling on churches to "make a strong and faith centered effort to remove the burden of racism, racial intolerance and negative stereotyping that has been the experience of the indigenous peoples of Vermont for over 200 years" and

A resolution passed at the 1999 Conference Annual Meeting on Uprooting Racism in Vermont, in which the Conference resolved to continuously encourage full inclusion and participation of people of color within our churches by intentionally including non-European traditions of worship, music, and language affirming that the God of Creation has equally called all humanity into being, and

A resolution passed at the 2002 Conference Annual Meeting to increase the number of Clergy of Color in our Vermont churches, calling on local churches of the Vermont Conference to begin to work, and actively seek assistance as needed, to prepare their congregation and community to accept a pastor of color at a time when an opening in pastoral leadership may occur,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ commit itself to becoming a multiracial and multicultural Conference, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Vermont Conference encourages all churches within the Conference to declare themselves multiracial and multicultural churches as defined in the 1993 General Synod pronouncement. Through the process of self-

examination the churches may develop a change of vision toward new ways of being together that would include culturally diverse forms of worship and fellowship.