



**RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD TO BRING BYLAWS
REVISIONS THAT INCLUDE NON-BINARY GENDER LANGUAGE**

Resolution of Witness

Adopted by the Thirty-Second General Synod, June 2019, Milwaukie, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, God has brought forth human beings as creatures who are male, female, sometimes dramatically or subtly a complex mix of male and female in their bodies and/or psyches, and sometimes who psychologically experience both and female identification and/or neither male nor female identification; and

WHEREAS, human cultures have created a broad diversity of roles for men and women, and have sometimes created roles for people named as neither man nor woman often revered and respected roles; and

WHEREAS, rules of appearance in the Bible, such as in Deuteronomy 22:5, are certainly among the rules criticized by Jesus as focused on outward conformity rather than inward integrity grounded in the acceptance of God's love; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous biblical affirmations of the goodness of creation and the love of God for all people, including Genesis 1, Psalm 139, John 1: 1-5, and Acts 10: 34-43; and

WHEREAS, Galatians 3: 26-29 calls on those who are baptized to put on Christ like a garment and to look past human divisions to become one person in Christ; and

WHEREAS, people with diverse understandings of their own gender beyond male and female are currently offering valuable ministry within the United Church of Christ, both as lay people and as clergy; and

WHEREAS, Christian people whose gender identity is something other than cis gender have sometimes experienced rejection and non-acceptance within some expressions of the United Church of Christ and in other expressions of Christ's Church, and are in need of a welcoming Christian community where they are valued as Christian people, and

WHEREAS, many settings of the United Church of Christ have little understanding of persons who gender identity is something other than cis gender; of how to meet their needs and make them feel welcome, of how to integrate their gifts and capacities for ministry into the life of the church and of how to integrate them into liturgy and expressions of worship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT all congregations of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to welcome people of all gender identities and expressions into membership, ministry, leadership, and full participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all settings of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to learn about the realities of gender experience and expression; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all settings of the United Church of Christ carefully consider the use of language relating to gender in all publications, curricula, and documents; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the United Church of Christ Board bring bylaws revisions to the 2021 General Synod that include gender expansive language and welcome persons of all gender identities and expressions into service as General Synod Delegates and as members of the United Church of Christ Board.

Funding:

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.