

1 **Resolution Calling on the Fifty-Fourth Conference of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ**
2 **and its Congregations to Covenant as Immigrant Welcoming Congregations.**

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4 **The name of the submitting body is the Minnesota Conference UCC Immigration Team, spokesperson, chair**
5 **Diane Haines.**

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7 WHEREAS the International Association for Refugees has stated, "The world is in the midst of a long-term refugee
8 crisis;" and

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10 WHEREAS thousands of refugees and migrants come from throughout the world to the United States seeking safety,
11 security, freedom, and opportunity; and

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13 WHEREAS our immigrant brothers and sisters continue to suffer as they fear raids, deportation, and seeing their
14 families torn apart; and

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16 WHEREAS the Jewish and Christian traditions honor this text: "When an immigrant resides with you in your land,
17 you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you;
18 you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34, adapted
19 from NRSV); and

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21 WHEREAS Jesus says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than
22 these." (Mark 12:31, NRSV); and

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24 WHEREAS Jesus further says in Matthew 25 of those who will receive the kingdom, "When I was hungry, you gave
25 me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger you welcomed
26 me..." (Matthew 25:35 Contemporary English Version); and

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28 WHEREAS migrants bring us as offerings their stories and experiences, dreams and hopes, energy and skills; and

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30 WHEREAS our new neighbors experience difficulties adjusting to life in a new country, difficulties such as language
31 barriers, culture shock, a sense of loss, and isolation; and

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33 WHEREAS the welcome and support immigrants receive helps in the building of safe communities and future
34 prosperity; and

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36 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ (UCC) declares "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
37 you are welcomed here;" and

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39 WHEREAS the Twenty-ninth General Synod passed a compassionate immigration resolution that included
40 encouraging "congregations to further engage in education work on immigration from a faith perspective, participating
41 in border delegations and work toward making your congregation an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation;"

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43 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the
44 United Church of Christ declares itself an "Immigrant Welcoming Conference" and that it encourages the development
45 of policies dedicated to facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants into Minnesota.

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47 BE IT RESOLVED that the Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ
48 calls on its members and congregations to become active "Immigrant Welcoming Congregations and Communities"
49 and that it assist this process by making available on the Conference website the following resource which includes
50 additional resources; "Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation - The Journey is Made by Walking," as well
51 as any assistance requested of the MN Conference Immigration Team.

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53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of the Minnesota Conference at its Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting
54 that other Conferences and settings of the United Church of Christ be invited to join as co-sponsors and that this
55 resolution be forwarded to the Committee on Disposition of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors for
56 consideration by delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod meeting in Baltimore, Maryland in 2017.
57

58 FUNDING

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

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62 IMPLEMENTATION The Conference Minister, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the
63 Minnesota Conference UCC will determine the implementing body. Upon request, the MN Conference Immigration
64 Team will assist congregations in the implementation of this resolution.