

COMMITTEE 9b

REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO FULL EQUALITY FOR PERSONS OF ANY SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR GENDER EXPRESSION

Whereas, General Synod and other settings of the United Church of Christ have repeatedly advocated for the equal rights and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT) in the United States and abroad, and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ, in partnership with other churches and faith traditions, has played a key role in the passage of laws protecting the basic civil rights of protecting persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, including the right to marry, and

Whereas, a new political movement is advocating in many states for legislation that aims to establish broad “religious exemptions” from existing or future laws protecting the equal rights of persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression , and

Whereas, these laws could allow restaurant owners to refuse service to customers of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, landlords to refuse leases to tenants of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression , and other forms of discrimination against persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its commitment to the full legal protection of the civil rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression,

calls upon congregations and all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate for enactment of local, state and federal laws protecting persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression against discrimination in public accommodations, housing and employment,

calls upon congregations and all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate on the basis of faith against legislation or executive actions that aim to establish a broad “religious exemption” to existing or future laws protecting the equal rights of persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression , and

reaffirms the historic commitment of this church to religious freedom, to the right of all churches and faith communities to maintain and advocate for their own beliefs and practices, and to respectful dialogue within the United Church of Christ and with other faith communities on issues concerning human sexuality, human dignity and marriage.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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