RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS

Approved As Amended

A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS, immigration law in the United States (U.S.) is a federal, not a state, responsibility, and

WHEREAS, America’s current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect our denominational or national values; and

WHEREAS, worker visa programs must comply with U.S. wage, hour, and other labor standards, including portability of visas so that workers can change jobs; and maintain the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of immigration law should affirm our nation’s core legal values including due process, transparency, fairness, accountability, and proportionality; and

WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that both respects our nation’s right to control its borders and the human rights of immigrants, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United States has prospered because of the contributions of hardworking migrants, immigrants, and aspiring citizens; and keeping families together not only is inherent to our faith values, but is also good for the economy because families are a base of support that increase worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and, there is a need to reduce the processing times of three to twenty years that keep families separated from their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has many DREAM Act eligible youth who were brought here as children, know this country as their only home, were educated here, and have shown their contribution to our congregations and communities; and

WHEREAS, immigration enforcement has deported a record 409,849 in 2012 fiscal year including 95,000 parents of U.S. citizens in 2011; and

WHEREAS, citizenship is a symbol of full societal membership and social participation that should be encouraged and supported with just and fair laws and procedures; and

WHEREAS, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform must include a realistic pathway to citizenship for all hardworking, taxpaying, aspiring citizens who live in the U.S. (including young people who have grown up in the United States) if they meet reasonable requirements; and
WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the
future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches our nation’s labor needs and is structured to
protect the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
urges the 113th Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that
addresses (1) earned legalization with a path to citizenship; (2) updated future flow of immigrants for
workers and unification of families; (3) enactment of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien
Minors (DREAM) Act as part of a comprehensive immigration reform; (4) protection of workers’
rights, including agricultural workers; (5) placement of humanitarian values at the center of enforcement
policies; (6) protection of refugees and migrant survivors of violence; and (7) ensure that newly
documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the
Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of Operation Streamline, stopping of the construction of the
southern border fence, and limiting additional immigration border patrol agents on the southern border.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the President of the
United States, U.S. Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The Twenty-ninth General Synod
of the United Church of Christ encourages General Synod delegates to deliver a copy of this resolution
to members of their respective (state) General Assembly, Governor of the state, (state) Speaker of the
House, and President of the (state) Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
encourages congregations to further engage in educational work on immigration from a faith
perspective, participate in border delegations and work towards making your congregation an Immigrant
Welcoming Congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
calls upon United Church of Christ members to take action to help pass compassionate comprehensive
immigration reform by (1) getting involved with a local coalition, (2) forming relationships with
immigrants, (3) joining advocacy delegations with your local Representative or Senator and (4)
mobilizing congregants for vigils, actions, marches, interfaith services and other local or national
activities on this issue.

**FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution (or Other Formal Motion) 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.