REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS

*(Prudential Resolution)*

**Resolution**

WHEREAS, 2007 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS, the occasion of the founding of the United Church of Christ was preceded with extensive discussions, prayer, scholarship, research, and negotiations to establish a common vision for this new venture in Christianity, and

WHEREAS our forebears came to an agreement known as The Basis of Union with Interpretations and summarized the faith of our denomination in the Statement of Faith, and

WHEREAS, Jesus prayed in John 17:21 “that they may all be one" and these words have been the official motto of the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-fifth General Synod reaffirmed that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and the representation of that central faith tenet by our symbol, and

WHEREAS, it is our desire that the United Church of Christ continue to reflect theological diversity that includes members and churches who consider themselves to be evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional (ECOT) as well as centrist, progressive, and liberal,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twenty-sixth General Synod, meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, reaffirms the Basis of Union with Interpretations and the Preamble to the United Church of Christ constitution as ongoing valued and cherished testimonies of faith that guide our common life and identity in the United Church of Christ, and under the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit, and commends these documents for review, reflection, and study at all levels of the church.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon all settings of the church to consider prayerfully its policies and statements in terms of their impact on the unity and future of local churches, associations, and conferences in the UCC.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-sixth General Synod recognizes and affirms the efforts of those among us who are encouraging all members and all churches to remain in the United Church of Christ and to increase covenantal partnerships through giving to the wider church, by sharing joys and concerns, and by participating in every aspect of denominational life.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-sixth General Synod acknowledges the existence of a broad spectrum of thought on contemporary issues of theology and ethics,
and advocates fair representation of all points of view in all settings of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Sixth General Synod urges Association, Conference and General Synod meetings to welcome speakers, displays and educational opportunities that exemplify an openness to the wide range of ministries and theological diversity in our churches.

**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**

All settings of the United Church of Christ are requested to be the primary implementers of this resolution.