

Resolution for the Wisconsin Conference to be Designated an Open and Affirming Conference

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ recognizes the foundational importance of the prayer of Jesus, “That they may all be one” (John 17:21), and;

WHEREAS in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 22:37-40) and again in Luke (Luke 10:27-28), Jesus reiterates the two great commandments that we should love God and love our neighbors as ourselves (Luke 10:27-28), and;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ recognizes that all persons are welcome and are invited into the United Church of Christ as fellow human beings, each of us on our own individual faith journeys, and;

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Conference currently has twenty-five churches officially designated as Open and Affirming, and;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Conference recognizes that each of us offers unique perspectives, gifts and talents in support of the work of the Wisconsin Conference;

WHEREAS there is a history of non-discrimination within the Wisconsin Conference staff;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ affirms the rights and responsibilities to extend full participation in the ministry of the Wisconsin Conference to all people regardless of sexual orientation or expression, gender identity or expression, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, marital standing, ableness (physical, mental & emotional), economic status, family structure, or any other label that would seek to divide rather than to unite, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conference encourages the churches of the Conference to continue or enter into study possibly leading toward adoption of an inclusive, non-discrimination policy and a covenant of openness and affirmation which welcomes and accepts lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and questioning persons fully into the community of faith and acknowledges their gifts and talents, and;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conference be designated as an open and affirming conference in all of its practices, policies and procedures.

Passed June 2014