

## **RESOLUTION ON AFFIRMING GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL PERSONS AND THEIR MINISTRIES**

[Adopted by the Eighteenth General Synod, United Church of Christ, Norfolk, Virginia, June 27-July 2, 1991.]

**Whereas**, in the words of the Apostle Paul, we know that “the whole creation has been groaning in travail” and we, too, feel these pains as we struggle to grow in our understanding of human sexuality;

**Whereas**, the actions of General Synods 10, 11, 14, 15 16 and 17 have supported human rights of all persons in church and society, regardless of sexual orientation;

**Whereas**, lesbian, gay, bisexual persons and their families have shared their gifts for ministry throughout the church, and through their stories and ministries the United Church of Christ has come to a deeper understanding of the diversity of God’s creation and the inclusiveness of God’s call;

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, the Eighteenth General Synod boldly affirms, celebrates and embraces the gifts for ministry of lesbian, gay and bisexual persons, and faithfully continues to work for justice in our church and society:

Calls upon local churches, Associations and Conferences to adopt an Open and Affirming policy. (i.e. a non-discrimination policy and a covenant of openness and affirmation of persons of lesbian, gay and bisexual orientation within the community of faith. CF: Fifteenth General Synod, 1985.)

Urgently calls upon local churches, Associations, Conferences to engage in a disciplined dialogue in which the biblical and theological foundation for congregations to be open and affirming of gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons are prayerfully discussed in light of the teachings of Jesus Christ and our Christian vocation to live as communities of grace and

reconciliation. The Instrumentalities are requested to provide study resources for United Church of Christ.

Calls upon local churches, Associations and Conferences to extend their welcome and support to openly lesbian, gay and bisexual students in-care, and to facilitate the ordination and placement of qualified lesbian, gay and bisexual candidates.

Invites all persons of the United Church of Christ to experience the struggle and joy of the journey towards openness and affirmation of all lesbian, gay and bisexual persons as children of God in the community of faith.