

The following resolution was approved by the delegates at a plenary of the Thirty-Second General Synod.

TA1 MOTION TO GENERAL SYNOD 32, 2019

A Prudential Resolution

Whereas in a 2014 study of the health and vitality of its conferences, the United Church of Christ found that Conferences need and desire to work collaboratively; and

Whereas, in June 2017, the Annual Meetings of the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the Connecticut Conference each voted to approve a resolution calling for the creation of a new Conference of the United Church of Christ in Southern New England; and

Whereas the three said Conferences have each spent the year between their 2017 and 2018 Annual Meetings discerning a call to join together as one single new Conference of the United Church of Christ in Southern New England; and

Whereas the Boards of Directors of the three said Conferences each voted unanimously to recommend to their 2018 Annual Meetings a common vision statement, a covenant agreement among the three Conferences, and articles of incorporation and bylaws for the proposed new Conference; and

Whereas the three said Conferences voted nearly unanimously at each of their 2018 Annual Meetings to approve the proposed common vision, covenant, articles, and bylaws; and

Whereas the three said Conferences voted nearly unanimously at each of their 2018 Annual Meetings to elect a new united Board of Directors to take office upon the formation of the new Conference organization; and

Whereas the Reverend John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, declared that the proposed union of the three said Conferences into a new Southern New England Conference would signal to the wider church "...that we can accomplish more together than apart, that we live in an interdependent world in which we all need each other...";

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-Second General Synod does hereby recognize a new Conference in Southern New England and vicinity (provisionally called the "TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ"), created with geographic boundaries encompassing those previously of the Rhode Island Conference, the Massachusetts Conference, and the Connecticut Conference, effective January 1, 2020; and

Be it further resolved that, the Thirty-Second General Synod does hereby approve the termination of the standing of the Rhode Island Conference, the Massachusetts Conference, and the Connecticut Conference with the General Synod, effective January 1, 2020, and concurrently grants the new TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ standing as a Conference of the

44 United Church of Christ, including all the powers, privileges, and responsibilities, of a
45 Conference of the United Church of Christ; and

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47 **Be it further resolved** that the Thirty-Second General Synod acknowledges that, effective
48 January 1, 2020, each Association of the said three shall automatically become an Association of
49 the new TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ, as determined by the new TA1
50 Conference.

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52 **Funding:** The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with
53 the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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55 **Implementation:** The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or
56 other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.