

The following resolution was approved by the delegates at a plenary of the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, held in Kansas City July 11-July 15, 2025.

*Vote: 25-GS-24
Minutes Page Number: 36
Plenary: 4*

**FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP OF OUR WHOLE LIVES AND ADVOCACY FOR
COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN FAITH COMMUNITIES
THROUGH INTERFAITH COLLABORATION**

A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS The American Civil Liberties Union tracked 510 bills (2023 legislative session¹) and 574 bills (2024 legislative session²) that restrict rights to medical care and/or education about bodies and gender. While not all these bills will become law, limited rights and reduced education can harm people (especially women and LGBTQIA+ people); and

WHEREAS Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Plus+ (LGBTQIA+) young people are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity but rather are placed at higher risk because of how they are mistreated, stigmatized in society, and live with a significantly higher rate of risk for physical harm and discrimination³, demonstrating how shame and stigma can be fatal; and

WHEREAS abstinence-only sex education lacks medically accurate information and often includes misinformation, both of which increase the rates of unintended pregnancy and potentially life-threatening infections;⁴ and

WHEREAS General Synod 15 called upon United Church of Christ congregations to declare themselves open and affirming by encouraging congregations to adopt a policy of non-discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual people, and to adopt a Covenant of Openness and Affirmation of persons of lesbian, gay and bisexual orientation;⁵ and

WHEREAS General Synods (12, 13, 16, 18) have paired support for safe and legal abortions with a desire for information and resources about contraception and family planning, and teen abortion rates decline with free access to contraception;⁶ and

WHEREAS General Synod 34 called upon Local Churches and their members to engage with the Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith curriculum to promote holistic sexuality education, including information and education about contraception, and to support and offer access to contraceptives;⁷ and

WHEREAS 2025 marks 25 years of partnership of the United Church of Christ with the Unitarian Universalist Association in the publication of Our Whole Lives resources⁸, which have expanded to include seven levels of comprehensive and inclusive curriculum, serving everyone from young children to older adults, and which include a commitment to medically accurate information, and inclusion of the diversity of human sexuality;

38 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church
39 of Christ affirms that doing God’s work in the world includes providing life-affirming lifespan
40 sexuality education that is developmentally appropriate and scientifically accurate, with an
41 understanding that information about human sexuality is helpful, not harmful, and
42 calls upon all settings of the church, including local congregations, Associations, Conferences,
43 and the Council of Conference Ministers to:

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- 45 • Celebrate 25 years of Our Whole Lives as comprehensive, inclusive, faith-based, life-
46 affirming sexuality education by renewing our commitment to provide continually
47 updated, accurate curriculum and resources;
- 48
- 49 • Work to eradicate stigma and dehumanization of people related to their gender, gender
50 expression, orientation, or sexual history.
- 51
- 52 • Educate themselves and others about how Our Whole Lives and Sexuality and Our Faith
53 are tools for celebrating the sacred embodiment of people of all ages, and how they
54 engage with the intersectional justice issues of reproductive justice, Lesbian, Gay,
55 Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Plus+ (LGBTQIA+) lived
56 experience, racial inequality, and sexual violence.
- 57
- 58 • Participate in the annual observance of Our Whole Lives in May as part of Sex Ed for All
59 Month⁹, or any date or dates deemed appropriate. Suggestions include, but are not limited
60 to, holding an Our Whole Lives Sunday, offering an Our Whole Lives educational
61 workshop, and/or sending out Our Whole Lives information in newsletters, which all
62 honor the Our Whole Lives values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, and justice
63 and inclusivity as ways we love ourselves and our neighbors; and
- 64
- 65 • Proclaim that this work is ongoing. As scripture says in Galatians 6:9 *So let us not grow*
66 *weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.* If we
67 do not give up, we can continue to build a world where there is no shame about our
68 bodies and relationships, and where we are in one human community together.
- 69

70 **FUNDING:** The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance
71 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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73 **IMPLEMENTATION:** The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries
74 and other entities of the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

¹ <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2023>

² <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2024>

³ Trevor Project

⁴ Abstinence-only education and teen pregnancy rates: why we need comprehensive sex education in the U.S - PubMed (nih.gov) and Federally Funded Abstinence-Only Programs: Harmful and Ineffective | Guttmacher Institute)

⁵ RESOLUTION CALLING ON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONS TO DECLARE THEMSELVES OPEN AND AFFIRMING

⁶ Colorado's teen birth rate fell 54 percent and the teen abortion rate declined 64 percent in the last eight years due to free access to contraception, especially IUD's.

⁷ Abortion-as-Healthcare-Plenary-Final.pdf (uccresolutions.org)

<https://sexeducationcollaborative.org/sex-ed-all-month>

⁸ <https://www.uccresources.com/products/our-whole-lives-owl-curriculum>

⁹ <https://sexeducationcollaborative.org/sex-ed-all-month>