

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.

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**RESOLUTION ON FULL COMMUNION RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO**

**A Prudential Resolution**

**TEXT OF THE MOTION**

**WHEREAS** the Thirty-Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution calling for the pursuit of the “closest possible relationship” with the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico, having been constituted through the union of the Congregational Church, the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and the Christian Church in 1931, was a united and uniting church before the formation of the UCC and was another stream which joined the United Church of Christ at its inception<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the decision of the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico in 2006 to separate from the United Church of Christ and return to being an independent denomination, an action that was received by the General Synod in 2007<sup>3</sup>, did not end the vital relationship and familial bond between the two communions nor alter the UCC’s recognition of IEUPR as a partner church; and

**WHEREAS** the United Church of Christ and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico share a deep commitment to mission and ministry with collaboration and mutuality to seek a just world for all; and

**WHEREAS** the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico and the United Church of Christ, recognizing the complicated history of colonialization, have committed to engage in active decolonialization as part of this partnership;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC), meeting in Kansas City, MO (11-15 July 2025), with the encouragement of the leadership of the General Assembly of the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR), makes the following declarations:

The Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ celebrates before God that the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico is an authentic, faithful part of the one, universal body of Christ.

The Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares and celebrates that a relationship of full communion now exists between the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico and the United Church of Christ, meaning that both churches pursue with intention ways of expressing the unity of the Church. This includes a mutual commitment

39 to recognizing that ordained ministers of each partner church are truly ministers of word  
40 and sacrament and to seeking ways of manifesting the common mission of witness and  
41 service.

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43 The Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commits itself to work,  
44 with God's help and together with its partner churches, to effect greater unity in the whole  
45 church of Jesus Christ.

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47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
48 Christ encourages all settings of the Church to study the biblical, theological, cultural, and  
49 practical implications of full communion with the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico.

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51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
52 Christ commends the collaborative efforts of the General Minister and President of the United  
53 Church of Christ working with the Pastor General of the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto  
54 Rico as they continue forging the closest possible relationship which honors the shared history  
55 and kinship of the two communions and lives into new possibilities beyond full communion.

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57 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the full communion partnership between the United Church  
58 of Christ and the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico commence with the signing of the  
59 common agreement by their respective Heads of Communion at a joint service of celebration  
60 following ratification of this agreement at the Assembly of the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de  
61 Puerto Rico that will include opportunities for local congregations and conferences across the  
62 two denominations to celebrate in meaningful ways.

## 63 64 **FUNDING**

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66 Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall  
67 mandates of the affected ministries and the funds available.

## 68 69 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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71 The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within  
72 the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Comm.-02a-IEUPR-FINAL-Post-Plenary.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/61-GS-20.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/07-GS-24.pdf>