

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-30
Minutes Page Number: 47
Plenary: 5*

THE SMALL TOWN AND RURAL COALITION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST REQUESTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A SELF-CREATED GROUP

A Prudential Resolution

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS 64% of the churches in the United Church of Christ are located in small towns and rural areas.

WHEREAS the vitality, relationality, and ecological aspects of our STAR congregations with their important presence within the body of the United Church of Christ, is as essential and important to the health of the entire Church as any other group of people (Ephesians 4:4).

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ seriously holds the call to be an open and welcoming faith community, accepting into the church body and leadership all facets of expression found in God's people, creating a rich diversity of expression, background, culture, sexual and gender identity and expression.¹

WHEREAS STAR congregations frequently find their needs and unique lived experiences underrepresented on a Conference and National level.

WHEREAS STAR congregations are not recognized as an essential majority of the churches within the United Church of Christ.

WHEREAS official recognition of the STAR Coalition will provide needed relational, resource, and representational support for our Small Town and Rural Churches.²

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Small Town and Rural Coalition be included in the United Church of Christ Bylaws, Article VI, Other Bodies, Self-Created Groups.

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

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

¹ <https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/05-GS-52.pdf>

² <https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/01-GS-18.pdf>