RESOLUTION OF AFFIRMATION FOR THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO BECOME AN “ACCESSIBLE
TO ALL” (A2A) CONFERENCE

Submitted by the Conference Inclusion Team of the Southern California Nevada
Conference.

In adherence of the General Synod 2005 resolution “Called to Wholeness in
Christ”, the Southern California Nevada Conference Inclusion Team was
established in June of 2018, to encourage, challenge and support the efforts of all
SCNC churches, Associations and other organizations to extend an extravagant
welcome and full inclusion of any persons living with disabilities into the full life of
the church, including usage of recommendations of the Americans with
Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). 1 Peter 4:8-10 says that we are to “Offer hospitality
to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have
received to serve others, as God’s grace in its various forms.” As believers, abled
bodied persons are not to exclude persons living with disabilities from using the
gifts God has given them. This resolution is to ensure that all who wish to
participate in a faith community have access to all aspects of community life.

WHEREAS: The resolution, “Called to Wholeness in Christ: Becoming a Church
Accessible to All” was adopted by the 25th General Synod in 2005. This
resolution called for conferences, associations and all settings of the
United Church of Christ to embody the philosophy of inclusion of
persons with all disabilities and reflect and study on ways congregations are
able to become accessible to all (A2A); and

WHEREAS: John 1: 1-3 tells us “In the beginning there was the Word; The Word
was in God’s presence and the word was God. The Word was present to
God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and
apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being.”
Therefore, people with disabilities are a part of God and made in the image
of God; and

WHEREAS: The United States Census Bureau 2010 records show a 19 percent
probability of having a severe disability with increasing difficulties with
mobility, hearing and vision after the age of 65 is 1 in 4; and
WHEREAS: A Harris interactive Survey determined that people with disabilities of any severity are 35% more likely to never attend a worship service due to physical and attitudinal barriers; and

WHEREAS: In 2018 the Conference Inclusion Team of the Southern California Nevada Conference was formed to be an educational resource to the churches, associations and ministries of the Conference to inform, encourage and assist them in becoming more inclusive and accessible to all people with disabilities in order that the Conference can declare itself to be an Accessible to All (A2A) Conference; and

WHEREAS: Inclusion in church settings will accentuate the gifts and talents people with disabilities have to offer, reminding us to grow in every way into Christ as part of the whole body which is joined and knit together “with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:16); and

WHEREAS: Disability Rights Justice is deemed to be a Social Justice issue;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Conference declares its intent to be an Accessible to All (A2A) Conference, and encourages all Associations, Local Churches, Affiliated Ministries and Members to enter into a time of study and prayerful reflection and consider working to earn the Accessible to All designation through the UCC Disabilities Ministries

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We the Annual Gathering shall strive to become inclusive to all persons regardless of physical or mental ability. This involves a process of deep reflection and thought to change our perceptions and presentations towards people with varying abilities as well as addressing environmental barriers. The Conference Inclusion Team stands ready to assist all groups who want to enter into this process to become a designated Accessible to All (A2A) setting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Southern California Nevada Conference shall welcome and call upon the Conference Inclusion Team to continue to serve as a liaison between the SCNC and the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board, to
continue their ministries of presence at Conference gatherings, their offerings of resources and their advocacy, through preaching and teaching, to encourage our ministries to become “Accessible to All”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Conference Minister, in consultation with the Board of Directors and appropriate Conference staff, will determine the implementing body or staff members; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: 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. There is no financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget.