

1 A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING MODELS OF SELF-GOVERNANCE

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4 **WHEREAS**, Whereas in fulfillment of the wish of Henry Opukahaia the Hawaii
5 Conference of the United Church of Christ celebrated the 200th year of the Gospel arriving in
6 Hawai`i in 2020; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, on December 19, 1842, United States President John Tyler agreed to
9 recognize the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, a joint declaration by France and Britain to recognize the independent state
12 of the “Sandwich Islands,” was promulgated on November 28, 1843, deemed as “La Kuokoa” as
13 international recognition of independence signed by representatives of King Louis-Pilippe and
14 Queen Victoria; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the Christian Hawaiian Kingdom innovated to successfully modernize
17 Hawaiian self-governance at the time to prosper in peace, trade and friendship through treaties
18 with friendly nations around the world for fifty years; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, considered as the author of the three-self method (self-supporting, self-
21 governing and self-propagating) the long-term secretary of the ABCFM (American Board of
22 Commissioners for Foreign Mission) Rev. Rufus Anderson arrived in Hawai`i in 1863 to tell the
23 missionaries to create self-reliant, self-governing churches and "to devolve upon it (the
24 Hawaiian churches) the responsibilities of self-government in ecclesiastical matters."; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, this advice was not followed leading to the descendants of the missionaries
27 overthrowing the government of the Hawaiian Kingdom on January 17, 1893; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, U.N. resolution 1469 has mis-represented the Hawaiian people for sixty
30 years that stems from a fraudulent report A 4226 that was submitted to intentionally mis-
31 represent Hawaiian people at the United Nations which removed Hawaii from the list of non-self
32 governing territories; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the lack of self-governance of the native Hawaiians the
35 General Synod directed President Paul Sherry to apologize for the complicity of the church in
36 the overthrow on the 100th anniversary; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, recent statements from the leadership of the United Church of Christ (UCC)
39 reflecting upon COVID-19 and the killing of George Floyd and others reflect an interpretation
40 that God is calling this church at this time to take steps of "radical reconciliation"; and

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42 **WHEREAS**, radical reconciliation will allow for space to independently chart a course to
43 self-governance economically, socially, politically, physically and morally based upon our father
44 ka Makua mau loa.

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Be It Resolved: that the General Synod encourage models of true self-governance within the United Church of Christ. Specifically, the Hawai'i Conference should grant self-governance to the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, the non-geographical association of Hawaiian churches, and Similarly, the South Dakota Conference should clarify what self-governance of the Native American churches in South Dakota means beyond returning of their deeds, and This General Synod should agree to promote compensation to Americans of African descent for their history of slavery, and This General Synod should direct the national church to empower COREM (the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries) to be at the forefront of an evangelical campaign to welcome people of color into the United Church of Christ.