A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING MODELS OF SELF-GOVERNANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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