

Approved: **The Pacific Northwest Conference 2021 Annual Meeting endorses the UCC General Synod Proposed Resolution**

**THE ALLIANCE OF ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
REQUEST TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A FORMAL GROUP**

and urges its passage at the upcoming UCC General Synod.

--End of Motion--

For the following reasons:

The Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Directors has endorsed this resolution and encourages the PNC Annual Meeting to endorse it also.

The fundamental biblical grounding for the proposed recognition of the Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers is found in Christ's farewell discourse in the Gospel of John, "...that all of them may be one," John 17:21 (NIV). For centuries, this has been a scriptural basis for uniting Christians throughout the world.

In the context of the challenges of today's secularizing culture and the opportunities created by increasingly powerful means of communication, we have been inspired by the Deutero-Pauline ambition, "...that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith...and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV). To us, this means that we are called to outgrow an attitude of "going it alone" that has been prominent in our polity for more than three hundred years (since the 1648 Cambridge Platform). It means that we are called to build a stronger and larger network of covenants through which we can become stronger as the body of Christ serving across the breadth of the United Church of Christ. It means that we can be much stronger by capitalizing on the many ways we are increasingly interdependent in today's world. This means building and maintaining a covenantal and collaborative relationship with all United Church of Christ Associate Conference Ministers through the existence and support of the AACM.

The Alliance seeks to live out its purpose of:

- Building and maintaining a covenantal and collaborative relationship with all United Church of Christ Associate Conference Ministers.
- Developing and maintaining a covenantal and collaborative relationship with the United Church of Christ Council of Conference Ministers, officers of the Church, UCC Covenantal partners, and UCC Board of Directors.
- Being a resource to share information and best practices to promote excellence in our various ministries.
- Being a collective voice of advocacy for concerns important to the role and work of the Associate Conference Minister as they relate to the life of the United Church of Christ.

We believe that discerning God's will and God's call to us is best done in community, gathering, listening and sharing with one another. This we have done through meeting and sharing ideas at AM21 in 2018 and 2019 intentionally discerning a call to unite for the intention of being a resource to share support, information and best practices to promote excellence in our various ministries.

The full text of the resolution can be found at <http://www.generalsynod.org/>