

1 **A Resolution Countering Christian Nationalism in Government Action and Policymaking.**

2 Christian Nationalism is an ideology that seeks to merge Christian identity with national identity.
3 Christian Nationalism asserts that the United States is fundamentally a Christian nation and that
4 its laws, institutions, and public life should privilege a particular expression of Christianity. In
5 doing so, it often conflates loyalty to God with loyalty to the nation.

6 Christian Nationalism poses a serious threat to both church and state. It distorts the Christian
7 faith by placing political power, national identity, and cultural dominance at the center of
8 religious life rather than the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. At the same time, it
9 undermines democratic principles by eroding religious freedom, weakening the separation of
10 church and state, and marginalizing those who hold different religious beliefs or no religious
11 belief at all. A healthy democracy depends upon equal treatment under the law, while authentic
12 Christian witness depends upon faith that is freely chosen rather than enforced or favored by
13 government.

14 WHEREAS, the Christian faith proclaims that Jesus Christ alone is Lord and that the Church's
15 primary allegiance is to God rather than to any nation, political party, ideology, or ruler; and

16 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has long affirmed the separation of church and state,
17 religious liberty for all people, and the free exercise of religion without governmental preference
18 or establishment; and

19 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ affirms religious freedom, freedom of conscience, and
20 the dignity of all persons, including those with whom we disagree; and

21 WHEREAS, Christian Nationalism seeks to merge Christian identity with national identity, often
22 suggesting that the United States is uniquely favored by God or that a particular expression of
23 Christianity should enjoy a privileged place in public life; and

24 WHEREAS, Christian Nationalism distorts the Gospel by confusing faithfulness to Christ with
25 loyalty to the nation and by elevating political power, military dominance, national identity,
26 institutionalized racism and sexism, and other forms of cultural dominance above the teachings
27 of Jesus Christ; and

28 WHEREAS, the biblical witness calls Christians to love their neighbors, welcome the stranger,
29 seek justice, and uphold the dignity of all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity,
30 nationality, gender, or political affiliation; and

31 WHEREAS, the historic commitment to religious liberty and the separation of church and state
32 protects both the integrity of religious faith and the freedom of all people to practice their beliefs
33 without government preference or coercion; and

34 WHEREAS, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun wrote in his concurrence in *Lee v.*
35 *Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577 (1992), "When the government puts its imprimatur on a particular

36 religion, it conveys a message of exclusion to all those who do not adhere to the favored beliefs.
37 A government cannot be premised on the belief that all persons are created equal when it
38 asserts that God prefers some;" and

39 WHEREAS, expressions of Christian Nationalism have increasingly influenced public discourse
40 and government policy debate in the United States, requiring thoughtful and faithful engagement
41 by churches and citizens committed to religious liberty and democratic principles; and

42 WHEREAS Christian Nationalism threatens both the Church and democratic society by
43 fostering exclusion, division, discrimination, and hostility toward those who hold different beliefs;

44 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the churches of the Maine Conference UCC affirm that
45 Christian Nationalism is incompatible with our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and
46 contrary to the historic commitments of religious freedom and equality that sustain a democratic
47 society; and

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maine Conference UCC encourages its churches, clergy,
49 and members to deepen their understanding of Christian Nationalism, its effects on both church
50 and society, and faithful Christian responses to it; and

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maine Conference UCC encourages its churches to bear
52 public witness to a faith rooted in humility, justice, compassion, and love of neighbor rather than
53 in the pursuit of political privilege or cultural dominance; and

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maine Conference UCC affirms its commitment to a
55 society in which people of every faith tradition and of no faith tradition enjoy equal protection,
56 equal dignity, and equal participation in public life; and

57 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be shared with the congregations of
58 the Conference and made available as a resource for study, reflection, and faithful action.

59 Respectfully Submitted by State Street Church, United Church of Christ, Portland, Maine,
60 member church of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ