Support of Nonprofit Nonpartisanship in the Northern Plains Conference UCC

Date Resolution is Submitted:

Submitted by: Valley City UCC & Bismarck UCC

Summary Statement of Intent of Resolution: The intent of this resolution is to invite the Northern Plains Conference of the UCC and the churches of the Conference to oppose amending Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to allow churches and charitable organizations to participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of (or in opposition to) candidates for public office.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, no political party or candidate entirely and flawlessly represents the Gospel;

WHEREAS, the prophetic and counter-cultural nature of faith requires a freedom from the constraints of partisan politics;

WHEREAS, nonpartisanship is a cornerstone principle that has strengthened the public’s trust of the charitable community, including charitable nonprofits, religious congregations and foundations;

WHEREAS, nonprofits are safe spaces in our communities, designed to be above the political fray, thus preventing the application of party labels that allows us to focus on solving problems, helping our neighbors and enriching our communities;

WHEREAS, the tax-law provision now being challenged by politicians is the final clause of Section 501(c)(3), which provides that in exchange for tax-exempt status, a charitable nonprofit, foundation, or religious organization may “not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office”;

WHEREAS, the law of the United States currently allows churches and nonprofits to take a stand on moral issues through advocacy on issue-based policies;

WHEREAS, current U.S. law requiring charitable nonprofits to remain nonpartisan is the best way to advance missions and work as partners with all levels of government;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Northern Plains Conference of the UCC opposes amending Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to allow churches and charitable organizations to participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of (or in opposition to) candidates for public office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Northern Plains Conference invites the churches of the Conference to oppose amending Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to allow churches and charitable organizations to participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of (or in opposition to) candidates for public office;

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this will be done in a climate of mutual encouragement and respect, recognizing that we have a diversity of perspectives in the UCC, and we are all seeking to do our best to be faithful disciples of Christ;

IMPLEMENTATION
Implementation of this resolution will be at the level of each congregation as they go through their own process and at the level of the Conference itself in the context of our covenantal relationships as we come together as the Northern Plains Conference of the UCC.