

1 **Support of Nonprofit Nonpartisanship in the Northern Plains Conference UCC**

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3 **Date Resolution is Submitted:**

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5 **Submitted by:** Valley City UCC & Bismarck UCC

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

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13 **TEXT OF RESOLUTION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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37 **WHEREAS**, current U.S. law requiring charitable nonprofits to remain nonpartisan is the best  
38 way to advance missions and work as partners with all levels of government;

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40 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Northern Plains Conference of the UCC opposes amending  
41 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to allow churches and charitable organizations  
42 to participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of (or in opposition to) candidates  
43 for public office;

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

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

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#### 54 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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