The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference voted approval of the Administrative Action “FOLLOW ME,” proposing amendments to Article V, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the United Church of Christ Constitution. The proposed amendments, along with a description of the theological basis for the proposed amendments, were sent to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ for action, in accord with the UCC Constitution’s provision for amendments (Article VIII, paragraph 74).

In July 2018 General Synod staff advised the Conference that, although the UCC Constitution provides for amendments to the constitution from Conferences, there is currently no procedure in place to deal with proposed amendments that come from Conferences. Moreover, given the large volume of business to be undertaken at General Synod 2019, the proposal would not be assigned to a committee for review and revision, nor would there be a hearing for the proposed constitutional changes. Instead, there would simply be an up or down vote by Synod on the exact wording that had been voted by Annual Meeting. Given the lack of consideration that would be accorded to the proposed constitutional changes, General Synod staff suggested that the Conference explore other ways in which to bring to General Synod the issues and concerns raised in “FOLLOW ME.”

Conference leaders consulted with proponents of the Administrative Action as to what might be done to provide for meaningful consideration by Synod of those issues and concerns. Redrafting the Conference’s Administrative Action as a proposed Prudential Resolution for Synod seemed appropriate. According the General Synod Standing Rules, a Prudential Resolution “establishes policy, institutes or revises structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves directions or requests actions . . .”

In September 2018 Conference Council was asked to consider receiving the intent of the vote at Annual Meeting reframed as a proposed Prudential Resolution to send to Synod, in order to encourage conversation within and among Local Churches on what it means to follow Jesus.

Acting as the Board of the NCNC Corporation, the Conference Council voted in October 2018 to send “FOLLOW ME” to General Synod as a Prudential Resolution. The proposed Prudential Resolution was duly submitted to the Office of the General Minister and President.

The General Synod Sub-committee on Disposition of Resolutions met in February 2019 and accepted “FOLLOW ME,” assigning it to a committee at General Synod, with this notice to the Conference of reclassification,

“The Sub-committee did re-classify this as a Resolution of Witness rather than a Prudential Resolution, using the parameters from the General Synod Standing Rules:
A Resolution of Witness is an expression of the General Synod concerning a moral, ethical or religious matter confronting the Church, the nation, or the world, adopted for the guidance of the Officers, Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministries, or other bodies . . . They felt the important questions raised and broad impact with local congregations and the message to the wider world required this designation.”

Please read the Resolution of Witness: JESUS SAID, “FOLLOW ME.”