



## **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEARINGS AND RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**

**WHEREAS,** Women, who constitute over 51% of the population of North Carolina, continue to confront workplace discrimination; health care inequities; disparate rates of poverty; rape and domestic violence assaults; a lack of political parity; and

**WHEREAS,** Anti-discrimination state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive; additionally, these laws can be repealed or reduced; and

**WHEREAS,** The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is needed to help correct systemic sex discrimination, since the US Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all the rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

**WHEREAS,** The ERA was proposed in 1923, passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary to put it into the Constitution as of a June 30, 1982 time limit; and

**WHEREAS,** Irrespective of a time limit for ratification, the Nevada Legislature ratified the ERA with a bipartisan vote on March 22, 2017, becoming the thirty-sixth state to ratify the amendment; and

**WHEREAS,** Congress can alter time limits in the proposing clauses of amendments, and the deadline for the ERA appeared only in the preamble and not in the text of the amendment; and

**WHEREAS,** Fifteen municipalities across North Carolina have adopted resolutions of support for the ERA in 2017; and

**WHEREAS,** ERA bills were introduced into both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly in 2015 and 2017; were assigned to Judiciary and/or Rules Committees, but were not considered in hearings; and

**WHEREAS,** The Unitarian Church of the Swannanoa Valley calls for a renewed effort to ratify the ERA; now, therefore, be it resolved

**RESOLVED,** That the Unitarian Church of the Swannanoa Valley will prioritize advocating that the General Assembly hold committee hearings upon like ratification bills and will pursue ratification of the ERA to the US Constitution as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.