

## **Resolution in Support of an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**

**Whereas**, the **Congregants of First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota** support equal rights; and

**Whereas**, the Minnesota Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to gender; and

**Whereas**, Minnesota requested that Congress propose an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in April of 1949 and then ratified the federal ERA in February of 1973 – yet still does not have sex or gender equality guaranteed in its own state constitution; and

**Whereas**, an Equal Rights Amendment would help correct systemic gender discrimination; and

**Whereas**, bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate stating that **“equality under the law must not be abridged or denied on account of gender”**.

**Whereas**, women constitute over 50 percent of the citizenry; and women play a critical role in families, the workplace, and in society as a whole, contributing to our economy and advancing our nation; and

**Whereas**, women continue to confront a lack of political parity, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, sexual assault and domestic violence; and

**Whereas**, the Equal Rights Amendment is required in order to provide gender-based equality in our courts and laws because the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the 14th Amendment does not apply specifically to issues of gender; and

**Whereas**, although laws prohibiting gender discrimination exist, they can be repealed or reduced by a simple majority in the legislature; and

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the **Congregants of First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota** call on the Minnesota Senate and House to pass a bill for an act proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, known as the Equal Rights Amendment, providing for gender equality under the law.