

## Status Report on 2014 Synod Resolutions

### Notes:

- 1) Gaps in numbering are due to Resolutions being considered by Synod, but not approved.
- 2) Only the pertinent "Resolved" statements are included in this report.

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### Resolution #1: Revision of the Constitution of the Southern Province

### Resolution #2: Revision of the Book of Order of the Southern Province

PEC published these revisions as the 2014 Book of Order, and made available to pastors, congregations, and on the provincial website.

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### Resolution #5: Board of World Mission Constitution

PEC communicated the changes in the Constitution to the Board of World Mission.

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### Resolution #6: New Provincial Share Methodology

PEC ensured that the new methodology was indexed for reference in the Book of Order as Synod directed.

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### Resolution #7: Unity Women's Desk Fundraising Campaign

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Support Services Board shall conduct an assessment of the merits of a fundraising campaign and further define oversight of the fundraising efforts and make its recommendation to the Provincial Elders Conference, and the Provincial Elders Conference shall give final approval before any fundraising campaign shall begin; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Unity Women's Desk, upon the approval of the Provincial Elder's Conference of the Southern Province, shall be authorized to establish and execute a fundraising campaign, with a goal of ongoing funding of a Scholarship Fund, a revolving Projects and Loan Fund, and an administrative fund; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the 2014 Synod of the Moravian Church, Southern Province, affirms the work of the Unity Women's Desk and encourages each church within the Province to actively assist the Unity Women's Desk in raising these funds should this campaign be undertaken; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Unity Women's Desk provide a report of its progress to the Provincial Elder's Conference on an annual basis, and at other times as requested by the Provincial Elder's Conference or its authorized designee, and a summary report of its efforts to the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church, Southern Province.

The Provincial Support Services Board conducted an assessment and recommended to the PEC that this campaign move forward. PEC set guidelines for and approved the campaign April 13, 2015. The campaign began March 13, 2017. As directed by Synod, Unity Women's Desk provided periodic reports to PEC, and a summary report to the 2018 Synod.

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**Resolution #8: Adoption of a “Safe Sanctuary” Policy**

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province mandates that each congregation of the Southern Province and each board or agency shall:

- 1) Develop, adopt, and implement a “Safe Sanctuary” policy and procedures related to safety issues for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults.
- 2) At a minimum, incorporate into this policy and its procedures components that:
  - Establish procedures for reporting and responding to incidents of abuse or injury.
  - Apply to all paid and volunteer staff that works with children, youth and vulnerable adults.
  - Establish a screening process for workers with children, youth and vulnerable adults.
  - Establish training, supervision, and support procedures for workers with children, youth and vulnerable adults.
  - Provide information and training on safety issues for those who accompany youth, children and vulnerable adults away from their congregation; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Human Resources and Compensation Benefits Committee and the Provincial Support Services Board of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province provide for congregations, boards and agencies examples of existing policies and guidelines to assist them in developing their own policy and consultation as needed.

The PEC directed the Human Resources Committee of the Provincial Support Services Board to prepare guidelines and materials. These were communicated to churches by Gary Stille, Human Resources Coordinator. Congregations had until December 31, 2016 to develop policies. As of March 20, 2018 45 of our 55 congregations had fulfilled this resolution. The remaining congregations are in various stages of creating policies and procedures.

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**Resolution #9: Spiritual Solidarity with Sisters and Brothers in Honduras**

**RESOLVED, That** the Synod of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province call upon its congregations and agencies, with the help of the Board of World Mission, to raise awareness and engage in educational activities on how the sale and consumption of illegal drugs in North America results in violence and exacerbates human rights violations that threaten not only the quality of life, but life itself, for our sisters and brothers in Honduras; and,

**RESOLVED, That** since pastors in Honduras cannot speak out against gangs and violence without risk to their personal safety, the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province urges pastors and leaders in churches throughout the Southern Province to speak out from their pulpits to give voice to the Hondurans’ plight; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province calls upon the members of its congregations to realize that awareness and education concerning the consumption of illegal drugs must begin “at home,” and move outward into neighborhoods and communities; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province encourages its congregations and agencies, in a spirit of solidarity, to hold the people of Honduras and our global partners in prayer; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, encourages its members in various settings to call on our nation's governmental leaders to reassess and recreate our U.S. foreign policy and drug policy to address situations of human rights violations, illegal drug trafficking and violence that impact the quality of life for our sisters and brothers in Honduras.

This resolution was communicated to congregations for their attention and the PEC sent it to the Interprovincial Board of World Mission.

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### **Resolution #10: Environmental Stewardship**

**RESOLVED, That** the Southern Province Synod of 2014 urges all congregations to include active stewardship of the Earth as part of their regular stewardship practices; and,

**RESOLVED, That** congregations call upon the Board of Cooperative Ministries Environmental Task Force for educational materials and other resources to support them in this essential ministry.

The PEC assigned this resolution to the Board of Cooperative Ministries and its Environmental Stewardship Task Force for attention. Since the previous Synod, they have created both the Eco-Mission Camp (for middle schoolers) and Eco-Mission (middle & high school) Youth Weekend at Laurel Ridge with an emphasis on taking care of God's Creation. The Task Force provides educational materials and consultation for congregations, holds educational events, and joins in the work of two statewide North Carolina organizations whose mission is to care for creation: The North Carolina Conservation Network and the North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light organization.

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### **Resolution #11: Annual Pension Fund Report**

**RESOLVED** that the Provincial Elders' Conference in consultation with the Pension Committee shall provide an annual written report to the congregations of the Province which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

The current balance of the Pension Fund

The current number of participants

The percentage of current and projected pension obligations which is fully funded based on actuarial calculation

The percentage of current and projected pension obligations which represents an unfunded liability based on actuarial calculation.

Beginning in 2014, the Provincial Finance Office provided the Pension Fund Report to congregations via the annual Provincial stewardship presentation materials packet. Retirees began receiving the report in 2016.

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**Resolution #12: Study and Discernment Regarding Homosexuality**

**RESOLVED That**, the Synod of 2014 reaffirms the spirit and intent of the 2010 Synod resolution #24, specifically: to provide leadership, resources and a process for a conversation about homosexuality in the church that includes diverse viewpoints, and opportunities for open and honest discussion, study and discernment; and,

**RESOLVED That**, this process of dialogue and discernment should take into account similar efforts made, and decisions that have been or may be reached by our sister provinces within the Unity, as well as any actions of the 2014 Unity Board and 2016 Unity Synod; and,

**RESOLVED That**, the Provincial Elders' Conference should fulfill what is stated in this resolution in a manner which it determines is best and prior to the Synod of 2018; and,

**RESOLVED That**, the task force should be appointed by September 15, 2014 and begin its work by November 1, 2014.

The PEC formed a Steering Committee which began work prior to Nov. 1, 2014. Please see the separate, full report to the 2018 Synod

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**Resolution #14: Living into Visions Discerned by Synod**

**RESOLVED** that this Synod formally adopts the reports presented by the eight Characteristic Groups, and delivers them to the Provincial Elders' Conference; and,

**RESOLVED** that in regard to these visions, the Provincial Elders' Conference determine priority, assess feasibility, and provide direction for living into these visions in the most appropriate way during the inter-synodal period.

The Provincial Elders' Conference received and acted as directed by Synod on the reports presented by the eight Characteristic Groups of the 2014 Synod.

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**Resolution #15 John Hus Memorial Year**

**RESOLVED, That** the Southern Province designate 2015 a year to honor the memory and teachings of John Hus; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Provincial Elders Conference guide efforts to commemorate Hus, including requesting the Board of Cooperative Ministries and Interprovincial Board of Communication to prepare events, print, and electronic material appropriate to this observance; and,

**RESOLVED, That** our full communion partners be invited to join with the Southern Province in a public ceremony honoring the legacy of John Hus on or near July 6, 2015 and that the Unity of the Brethren in Texas be invited to share in a joint commemoration of our common spiritual ancestry; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Southern Province cooperate with any celebrations, events, or activities undertaken throughout the Worldwide Unity; and,

**RESOLVED, That** every congregation be encouraged to participate in and hold programs about Hus and his legacy; and,

**RESOLVED, That** if passed, this resolution be forwarded on to our brothers and sisters in the Northern Province for consideration at their June 2014 Synod; and,

**RESOLVED That** all Moravians be invited to reflect on John Hus's witness and how his modern spiritual descendants can emulate his example of faithful devotion to Christ.

This resolution was assigned to the Board of Cooperative Ministries. Material about John Hus was included in the *Simply Moravian* resource and the new Moravian curriculum, *Living Branches*. A "Service of Word and Sacrament in Commemoration of the Legacy of John Hus" was held at Home Moravian Church, Sunday July 19, 2015 with several hundred in attendance, including ecumenical guests, and another hundred participating online. A reception afterward included: sharing from those who participated in a Hus Tour to Germany and the Czech Republic, and the European Convo.

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#### **Resolution #16: Privilege of Vote at This Synod**

This resolution was passed by the 2014 Synod, granting privilege of voice and vote to delegates from certain congregations who had not fulfilled financial obligations related to voting privilege as stated in the Book of Order.

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#### **Resolution #17: Cornerstone Campaign**

**RESOLVED, That** the Provincial Elders' Conference is authorized to establish policies and procedures and to use Cornerstone Campaign funds for such general financial support of new and emerging ministries; and

**RESOLVED, That** the Cornerstone Campaign be continued for the next inter-synodal period (2014-2018), and funded annually from our congregations as a requested item at a level determined by the Provincial Elders' Conference; and,

**RESOLVED, That** Church Board(s) of our congregations review and consider their participation in this program each year before preparing their annual budgets.

Beginning in 2015, PEC implemented the annual, requested funding plan from congregations which Synod authorized, and renamed the fund "The Emerging Ministries Fund." PEC developed guidelines for new and emerging ministries (see Resolution #18). Specific policies and procedures for use of these funds are pending. In 2016, PEC provided one-time grants (of \$5,000 each) for program support to the Anthony's Plot and Come and Worship new and emerging ministries.

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**Resolution #18: Establishment of Manna Ministries**

**RESOLVED**, That the Southern Province recognize the role and value of “Manna Ministries,” new and emerging ministries that do not otherwise fit into the existing models and categories of ministry; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Elders Conference designate an existing entity or new task force (1) to develop, during the upcoming intersynodal period, guidelines for Manna Ministries that promote sustainability, offer accountability, and foster collaboration and discernment during periods of transition and for the future, and (2) to explore and facilitate the development of Manna Ministries, under the oversight of the PEC or its designee; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Elders Conference determine how best to affirm Manna Ministries as recognized, legitimate ministries of the Southern Province.

In 2017 PEC developed and adopted guidelines for new and emerging ministries, and called Angelica Regalado Cieza to design and develop an emerging ministry to immigrants to Forsyth County, NC and the surrounding area. This ministry began in early 2018. A New and Emerging Ministries Team was formed to work with the PEC in implementing and overseeing the development of such ministries.

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**Resolution #20: Cooperation and Collaboration with the Wake Forest University School of Divinity**

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Elders Conference or its representatives engage in an informal, but intentional, dialogue with representatives of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity regarding ways the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province and the WFU School of Divinity can cooperate and collaborate together for their mutual benefit; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That representatives of Moravian Theological Seminary be invited to participate in this dialogue, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Elders Conference or its designee present a report at the 2018 Synod describing the progress of this dialogue and the development of joint programs and collaborative efforts with the WFU School of Divinity.

Please see the separate, full report to the 2018 Synod.

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**Resolution #25: Liturgical and Sacramental Unity and Liberty**

**RESOLVED**, that the Interprovincial Faith and Order Committee be charged to develop, as soon as possible, (1) guidelines for evaluating changes to liturgies, litanies, rites, and sacraments, so that we may continue to celebrate both the unity and variety of our liturgical life, and (2) that if agreeable to both provinces, the guidelines be subject to review by the clergy and bishops of the Northern and Southern provinces before the PEC's of each province revise and approve guidelines for their province (without requiring that the guidelines be the same for each province).

PEC sent this resolution to the 2014 Northern Province Synod, which did not consider it. The PEC forwarded it to the Faith and Order Commission for action. In its November 2014 meeting, the Commission declined to formulate guidelines and determined that those stated in our Book of Order "seem to be clear." (*Church Life in the Southern Province, Chapter 7 Worship, A. Services, and B. Orders of Worship and Liturgies*)

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**Resolution #26: Recognition of Bishop J. C. Hughes**

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, assembled at its 2014 Synod, expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude for Bishop Hughes' faithful and dedicated service to Christ and his Church and conveys to Bishop Hughes and Sister Hughes our prayers for God's blessings on them at their new location.

The PEC furnished a letter and a copy of this resolution to Bishop Hughes.