

Resolution

Subject: Reaffirmation of Our Commitment to Advocacy & Justice
From: Advocacy & Justice

WHEREAS, The *Ground of the Unity* states: “Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve. From this, His Church receives its mission and its power for its service, to which each of its members is called.” (GOTU #8) and “Jesus Christ maintains in love and faithfulness His commitment to this fallen world. Therefore we must remain concerned for this world. We may not withdraw from it through indifference, pride or fear. Together with the universal Christian Church, the *Unitas Fratrum* challenges humanity with the message of the love of God, striving to promote the peace of the world and seeking to attain what is best for all.” (GOTU #10); and

WHEREAS, The *Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum* (COUF) Unity Synod Resolution #884 from 1974 states, “As a Church we are called by our Lord to bring the whole gospel to the whole person. In the Gospel not only the individual, but also society and even humanity as a whole is looked at in light of the coming Kingdom of God. This means that we, as members of the Church, and also his congregations and provinces of The Moravian Church as a whole join in the efforts for *peace* and *social* and *economic* justice”; and

WHEREAS, The 2016 Unity Synod calls congregations to seek “more ways to effectively engage their cultures and societies in tangible mission that addresses the many issues of disparity, hardship, and distress that come from the experiences of life in the community,” “be engaged in measured community impact,” and “share the information received with the Unity;” (COUF #847, Resolution 33); and

WHEREAS, The *Moravian Covenant For Christian Living* states, “Considering it a special privilege to live in a democratic society, we will faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of our citizenship, among which are intelligent and well-informed voting, a willingness to assume public office, guiding the decisions of government by the expression of our opinions, and supporting good government by our personal efforts.” (MCCL IV. B. 26); and

WHEREAS, The *Standards and Responsibilities for Ordained Ministers of the Moravian Church* states, “Ordained ministers work for peace and justice, recognizing the complex interrelation of these issues. They appreciate the gift of God’s creation and promote its preservation as a sacred trust. They uphold the dignity of all people, recognizing that they are created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). They are open to God’s call to be advocates for the poor, the oppressed, and

the outcast. They seek reconciliation and the peaceful resolution of conflict. Ordained ministers are called to be witnesses for Christ and by word and deed communicate the Good News of God's love to all." (*Standards and Responsibilities for Ordained Ministers of the Moravian Church*, V. The Ordained Minister in Relation to the Community and World"); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province recommit itself to the work of God's justice and advocacy as articulated in our *Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum*, *Ground of the Unity*, and *Moravian Covenant for Christian Living*; and be it

RESOLVED, that the 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province requests that the Commission of Congregational Development move this justice and advocacy work forward with intention and action, engaging ecumenical partners as needed; and be it

RESOLVED, that the 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province urges congregations to explore congregational passions and resources around mission and justice, identify needs in their communities that are not being adequately addressed, and work alongside community and ecumenical partners to develop ministries to help address those needs; and be it

RESOLVED, that the 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province congregations explore the charity and mission work they undertake and educate themselves on the causes and systemic issues rooted in history, stereotypes, laws, and policies that cause the work to be continually needed, and prayerfully discern ways to advocate as a congregation for those impacted by those issues to bring about social transformation; and be it

RESOLVED, that the 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province congregations, through their church board(s), report to the Commission on Congregational Development and/or Provincial Elders' Conference on an annual basis until the next Synod how they are learning about and addressing systemic underlying issues of justice as related to mission and charity work they undertake; and be it

RESOLVED, that the 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province encourages all Ministers and Directors of Christian Education to engage in continuing education around God's Justice; and be it

RESOLVED, that 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province encourage congregations and emerging ministries to share good news and best practices of fruitful local ministries on social media, on websites, in local ministerium groups, and with the Interprovincial Board of Communication for sharing and publication, and with anyone else who may benefit from hearing what others have accomplished.