

Resolution

Subject: American Moravian Church of the Southern Province affirms that the Bible is Essential
From: Government and Worship & Prayer Committees

WHEREAS, the Bible is the inspired Holy Word of God; and

WHEREAS, the General Synod of the Unitas Fratrum 1782 stated that the Holy Scripture is our chief means, the ground of our doctrine and the only rule of our faith and life; and

WHEREAS, the Bible reveals the way of salvation; therefore the Bible is an essential means of learning the truth; and

WHEREAS, when Jesus was tempted by Satan he quoted the Holy Scripture to Satan (cf. Luke 3); and

WHEREAS, Jan Hus believed that the language of the Holy Scriptures should be in the language of the people and lost his life because he felt that the Bible was essential to understanding truth; and

WHEREAS, the Bible is essential to understanding truth and it motivates Moravians to study scripture; and

WHEREAS, we are taught to meditate each day by reading the Bible and reviewing the Moravian Daily Texts; and

WHEREAS, it is the role of the Unity Synod, according to the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum in paragraph #253, “To decide on official statements of the general principles of the Unitas Fratrum in regard to constitution, doctrine, congregation life and the ministry and the spread of the Gospel”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Moravian Southern Province reaffirms the Bible as essential to a fuller understanding of God’s saving work in Jesus Christ and the doctrinal statement expressed in the Ground of the Unity, paragraph #4 “God’s Word and Doctrine”:

“The Triune God, as revealed in the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, is the only source of our life and salvation; and this Scripture is the sole standard of the doctrine and faith of the Unitas Fratrum and therefore shapes our life.

“The Unitas Fratrum recognizes the Word of the Cross as the center of Holy Scripture and of all preaching of the Gospel; it sees its primary mission, and its reason for being, to consist in bearing witness to this joyful message. We ask our Lord for power never to stray from this.

The Unitas Fratrum takes part in the continual search for sound doctrine. In interpreting Scripture and in the communication of doctrine in the Church, we look to two millennia of ecumenical Christian tradition and the wisdom of our Moravian forebears in the faith to guide us as we pray for fuller understanding and ever-clearer proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But just as the Holy Scripture does not contain any doctrinal system, so the Unitas Fratrum also has not developed any of its own because it knows that the mystery of Jesus Christ, which is attested to in the Bible, cannot be comprehended completely by any human mind or expressed completely in any human statement. Also it is true that, through the Holy Spirit, the recognition of God’s will for salvation in the Bible is revealed completely and clearly.”