

Resolution

Subject: Inclusion of LGBTQIA Siblings in Christ
From: Advocacy & Justice Committee

WHEREAS, the Ground of the Unity (#7) confesses, “The Unitas Fratrum recognizes no distinction between those who are one in the Lord Jesus” [and] “We oppose any discrimination in our midst because of ethnic origin, sex or social standing, and we regard it as a commandment of the Lord to bear public witness to this and to demonstrate by word and deed that we are brothers and sisters in Christ.”; and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living says, “We will be eager to maintain the unity of the Church, realizing that God has called us from many and varied backgrounds, we recognize the possibility of disagreements or differences. Often these differences enrich the Church, but sometimes they divide. We consider it to be our responsibility to demonstrate within the congregational life the unity and togetherness created by God who made us one. How well we accomplish this will be a witness to our community as to the validity of our faith,” (14); and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living also says, “We will not hate, despise, slander or otherwise injure anyone. We will ever strive to manifest love towards all people, to treat them in a kind and friendly manner, and in our dealings with them to approve ourselves upright, honest, and conscientious, as becomes children of God,” (29); and

WHEREAS, the Book of Order (Chapter III, 2014), *The Witness of the Unitas Fratrum*, tells us: “The Unitas Fratrum appreciates the inestimable value of each human being for whom Jesus Christ gave His Life”; and

WHEREAS, the Book of Order section entitled, *Church Life in the Southern Province*, also states: “True faith admits any and all persons, not just to membership in the Moravian Church, but to membership in Christ’s Body, the Universal Christian Church. Membership in Christ’s Body is a gift of grace. ‘For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God,’ (Eph. 2:8). This is a gift that no other human being or earthly institution can take away,” (pg.73); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Moravian Church, Southern Province shall continue to enter into dialogue in a Christian manner with LGBTQIA persons in order to understand their lives and spiritual walk; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Commission on Congregational Development will establish resources for education, training, and dialogue regarding the welcome of LGBTQIA persons. This may be done in collaboration with Provinces of the Unity and our ecumenical partners.