

Pre-Synod Resolution: Affirming Salvation Through Christ Alone

Submitted to 2006 Synod Planning Committee
By Joint Board Olivet Moravian Church

March 23, 2006

Dear 2006 Southern Provincial Synod Planning Committee,

The resolution on the next page is presented by the Olivet Moravian Joint Board. During this intersynodal period, our board discussed and reached consensus on several issues related to our province and the Moravian Church. One of these issues was to reaffirm salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Our Joint Board composed the following statement that was shared with the Provincial Elders Conference of the Southern Province, the Provincial Elders Conference of the Northern Province, and the Faith and Order Commission. Our Joint Board statement is as follows:

The Joint Board of Olivet Moravian Church believes that Jesus is the only way to God, the Father.

From this statement we present a resolution on Affirming Salvation Through Christ Alone.

Sincerely,

The Joint Board of the Olivet Moravian Church

Resolution: Affirming Salvation Through Christ Alone

Whereas; according to the Ground of the Unity, “Scripture is the sole standard of the doctrine and faith of the Unitas Fratrum and therefore shapes our life.”

And whereas; Scripture says that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation in the following passages:

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:16)

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. (John 3:16-18)

“There is one God: there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all.” (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

And whereas; the Ground of the Unity, the foundational theological statement of the Moravian Church, states that “with the whole of Christendom we share faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We believe and confess that God has revealed himself once and for all in his son Jesus Christ, that our Lord has redeemed us with the whole of humanity by His death and resurrection; and that there is no salvation apart from Him” (Ground of the Unity, Section 2)

And whereas; the Ground of the Unity further states that “it is true that through the Holy Spirit the recognition of God’s will for salvation in the Bible is revealed completely and clearly.” (Ground of the Unity, Section 4, Paragraph 3)

Therefore, be it resolved that the 2006 Synod reaffirm the foundational theological statement in the Ground of the Unity that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation;

And be it further resolved that leaders in the Moravian Church such as, pastors, teachers, youth leaders and counselors should be held accountable to proclaim the doctrine in accordance with the Moravian Church that “Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life.” (John 14:6)