

Pre-Synod Resolution: Discontinue Provincial Support of the World Council of Churches

Submitted to 2006 Synod Planning Committee

By Joint Board Olivet Moravian Church

March 22, 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 dealt with several issues related to our province and the Moravian Church. One of these issues was the issue of the Moravian Church being associated with the World Council of Churches. After much discussion, our board formed the letter which accompanies this letter and resolution. This letter was sent to the Provincial Elders Conference of the Southern Province. The enclosed letter is a copy without signatures, but the letter sent had the signatures of our board members.

From this letter and our board's decision about the World Council of churches, we present a resolution on Discontinue Provincial Support of the World Council of Churches.

Sincerely,

The Joint Board of the Olivet Moravian Church

Resolution: Discontinue Provincial Support of the World Council of Churches

Whereas; A policy statement of the World Council of Churches, “*Towards a Common Understanding of the World Council of Churches*”, reveals numerous contradictions and vague statements;

And whereas; A policy statement of the World Council of Churches, “*Towards a Common Understanding of the World Council of Churches*”, reveals the macro-ecumenism tendencies of this organization;

And whereas; The World Council of Churches continuously associates itself in the arena of World Politics and supports non-Christian leaders and political parties (example: statement released on 11/04/04 by Peter Weiderund, World Council of Churches Commission of International Affairs director, expressing condolences to the people of Palestine upon the death of Yasser Arafat);

And whereas; The World Council of Churches supports religious pluralism (Baar Statement), The statement, “*We find ourselves recognizing a need to move beyond a theology which confines salvation to the explicit personal commitment to Jesus Christ*”, is in conflict with Moravian belief;

Therefore, be it resolved that Second Corinthians 6:14 – 16 warns us not to be yoked with unbelievers;

And be it further resolved that the Moravian Church, Southern Province shall appoint a Provincial task force to study all issues pertaining to the Church’s affiliation to the World Council of Churches *which includes people who share the above concerns*;

And be it further resolved that the Moravian Church discontinue financial support of the World Council of Churches until results of the Provincial task force are presented at which time support will be permanently terminated or reinstated;

And be it further resolved that this task force will make recommendations to the Provincial Synod of 2010.